

# WALSALL CHRONICLE

Thursday, January 15, 2015

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## SEEING RED

Museum gets fired up for latest project



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## FOUR-LORN

Saddlers taught lesson by Scunthorpe



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## Clean-up of estate cash may be sought

THE Government could be asked to step in and cover the multi-million pound clean-up of a contaminated estate.

Almost 90 homes on the site of a former gas works near Kemble Close, Oakbridge Drive and Brookthorpe Drive in Willenhall were declared as affected following a three-year investigation. The responsibility of the land has not yet been agreed and a notice of motion has now been forwarded to members of the council seeking the Government to fund remediation.

It is anticipated the bill could rise to as high as £7 million, and expected to cost at least £3m. A report to the council says the authority is in the process of serving remediation notices on parties it deems as liable.

But this is subject to appeal and could then take over 12 months to reach a decision. The notice to seek Government action has been put forward by Liberal Democrat councillor Ian Shires, Dan Barker and Doeren Shires.

It states: "Notwithstanding the legal process, and in the interests of the health and well-being of residents, the chief executive is authorised to write to the relevant Secretary of State to intervene."

## Seamstress to lead class

TV seamstress Jenni Taylor will be the tutor at a sewing classes at a centre for the over fifties.

The Great British Sewing Bee contestant, from Walsall, will lead sessions on how to give worn clothes a new lease of life at the Stan Ball Centre, Bloxwich on February 28 from 9.30am to 4.30pm. The session is £30 per person, including lunch.

Entertainer Chris Carter will come to the venue on January 27.

Tickets cost £2. Call 01922 403351 to book a place.

# RETURN RAIL LINK PLEA BY COUNCIL

**A DIRECT rail link between Walsall and Wolverhampton needs to be restored and new stations built, according to council chiefs.**

Walsall Council is to ask Centro to consider the steps as part of a review of public transport in the region, with a direct passenger train service to the city, at the top of the wish-list.

Councillors are also calling for new stations at Willenhall and James Bridge to tie in with the multi-million pound enterprise zone.

The rail service was withdrawn in 2008 and commuters now have to travel through Birmingham New Street to travel between the two areas.

There have been long standing calls for a new station at Willenhall.

The West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, a body which consists of council leaders from the region's seven authorities, meets on January 28.

It is being asked to review the proposals to improve transport links across The Black Country. This will be led by Centro, which oversees public transport in the West Midlands.

### Expensive

Walsall Council leader Sean Coughlan wants Centro to look into the possibility of reintroducing passenger train services on the Walsall to Wolverhampton line.

It is considered the scheme will be more affordable than the initial proposal for the expensive Midland Metro 'Five Ws' tram line between the neighbouring authority areas of Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Willenhall, Walsall and Wednesbury.

by Craig Hughes

He said: "We recognise that the Black Country needs a high-quality and high-frequency train service between its strategic centres and to and from Birmingham City Centre.

"As one of the council leaders in the Black Country, I'm all for the review. The Midland Metro schemes have been on the table for more than 10 years and were put forward at a time when funding for light rail was more readily available. We're obviously now living in more leaner times. Such levels of funding are no longer available.

"The schemes for the Black Country need to be reviewed to test whether they are feasible and can be realistically implemented in the next five to 10 years.

"There's a real need to consider lower-cost alternatives, such as reintroducing a rail service between Wolverhampton and Walsall, which we feel is more affordable. New rail stations at Willenhall and James Bridge would increase the number of passengers using the service whilst reducing the annual revenue subsidy to sustain it."

It is expected that a position regarding the viability of the 5Ws route will be known later this summer.

## Pupils sent home over wrong shoes



Schoolgirl Jodie Dawes, aged 15, with her mother Tina Curran, seen with the shoes her school deemed inappropriate

SOME pupils have been sent home from a Black Country school this week – because they wore the wrong shoes to lessons.

Brownhills School head Helen Keenan said the rules must be obeyed. She said letters were sent to parents before the Christmas break to warn that children must turn up with polished shoes or face being sent home to change them.

Parent Tina Curran, a leather worker, claimed many families had already bought new shoes for the new term and could not afford to fork out

cash for a replacement when staff at the Deakin Avenue site launched a uniform crackdown.

She said she purchased a pair of 'velvet style' shoes for her daughter Jodie, aged 15, before the holidays.

"My daughter Jodie was targeted by one of the teachers as soon as she turned up last Monday. She was allowed to stay, but said some were sent home. And the next day she was sent home. I am going to get her some other shoes, but I'm not happy about it. Lots of the moms have been complaining that they can't afford to keep buying

shoes. If the children are in school what does it matter if they're not in exactly the right type of shoe, their brains are not in their feet are they?" Ms Curran, of Bloxwich, said.

But Mrs Keenan said most parents were supportive of the uniform policy and only 'a couple' were sent home.

"I'm not apologising for our high standards. We have tried to apply the policy sensibly. The biggest issue is teens saying to parents that they are not going to wear the right style of shoe. Unfortunately some parents didn't say 'no' to their child."

## Jobs axe looms at group in cutbacks

AROUND 30 jobs are under threat at a community association that runs facilities for families including a day nursery. Residents held a banner-waving protest over proposals to reduce its funding at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre.

Hundreds more have signed a petition over fears bosses will be forced to shut services under council budget plans to save £29 million in 2015 to 2016.

The centre operated by Frank F Community Association also houses the council-run Beechdale Library that is earmarked for closure. The group also runs Beeches Day Nursery, youth clubs, lunch clubs for the elderly and education classes.

Around 300 residents along with more than 50 young children visit projects run by the group, based in Stephenson Square, each week. The association's business manager Debra Mohammed said: "If the building shuts the young people on the estate will have nowhere else to go and will be hanging around the streets."

Labour councillor Tina Jukes, of Birchills-Leamore ward which includes Beechdale, said it was a difficult situation and no decisions had been made by the town hall. The final budget will be unveiled next month.

## Backing on regulations

NEW rules which require businesses and takeaways to warn customers of ingredients linked to allergies have been backed.

Fourteen ingredients are covered by the new rules and the information must be given in a number of ways including verbally and on menus.

Businesses wanting further information can call Walsall Council trading standards on 01922 653040 or visit the Food Standards Agency's [www.food.gov.uk/allergy](http://www.food.gov.uk/allergy) website.

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# Sudden death of boss after canoe trip



Alan Gough, 57

A WELL-KNOWN businessman and rotary club member has died suddenly on his way home from a canoe trip.

Father-of-two Alan Gough, who was managing director of Fraser Wood estate agents in Walsall, suffered a heart attack at the wheel of his car as he drove home from the Lake District.

The 57-year-old was also a keen bird-watcher and an experienced deep-water scuba diver. He died unexpectedly on

January 4. Lifelong friend Bill Green, of Bell Road, Walsall, described him as 'kind, professional and as honest as the day is long'. He said Mr Gough crashed after falling ill in the car while with a mutual friend, John Robinson, after a day boating on Ullswater. The collision occurred near Lake Windermere.

"His car veered off the road and crashed into some boulders but it was a low-impact collision. "Lots of people

stopped to assist and he was given CPR at the scene before being taken to hospital but sadly he died."

He said Mr Gough had not been ill and kept fairly fit. He had only gone up to The Lakes for the day. Mr Gough joined Fraser Wood after leaving school at the age of 18, going on to become a co-owner of the business. He leaves behind his wife Tracey and two children, Tom, 21 and Sophie 19, both at university.

# Help for overweight children costs £180k

SUPPORT for Walsall's 900 overweight children is costing more than £180,000 a year, with 24 per cent of youngsters above normal weight, or obese when they start school.

Walsall Council is providing weight loss schemes that include specialist lifestyle advice and physical activity. Bosses say almost 90 per cent of children on the 'tailored-support programmes' achieve or maintain weight loss.

## Hospital to open ward week early

A NEW multi-million pound ward at Walsall Manor Hospital is poised to open earlier than planned because of 'significant pressure' caused by patient admissions.

Bosses at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust are working towards opening the 30-bed ward this week after being pushed to capacity by emergency admissions.

The new £4.7m block had been due to open in the middle of the month but the strain on resources has led to the trust seeking to take action.

Chief executive Richard Kirby said: "We continue to face significant pressure from emergency admissions and Walsall Manor Hospital is currently operating at capacity.

"We are currently working hard to open a new 30-bedded ward a week earlier than planned to help relieve pressure on capacity.

"We would therefore urge anyone needing medical care to consider what would be the most appropriate healthcare service for their needs.

"There are long waits in our Emergency Department and we are encouraging people to use other available local services if their problem is not an emergency."

The £180,000 is split between two schemes – the 12-week Make It Count for four to seven-year-olds and Fun4Life for eight to 15-year-olds. The council has vowed to do all it can to tackle the ticking time bomb of childhood obesity.

Councillor Ian Robertson, portfolio holder for health, is also chairman of Walsall Health and Wellbeing Board – and has established a working group. He said youngsters should also try to lose weight by making the most of the borough's leisure centres.

"There are some exciting initiatives under way for 2015 including the construction of two new state-of-the-art leisure centres in Bloxwich and Walsall Wood," he said.

Public Health Walsall has a 'transformation fund' of £1 million to support services that help improve in the general health of the public in Walsall. It comes from grant funding and it is proposed an additional £1.2m will be allocated in 2015/16.

Around 40 per cent of children in the Black Country are also overweight when they leave primary school. In Walsall, the rate is 40.3 per cent, while Wolverhampton has the highest at 41.7pc. Dudley has the lowest at 38.6pc.

It comes as parents and carers are being urged to cut down the amount of sugar their children consume and swap sweet treats for healthier choices.

## Fundraising walk milestone



Councillor Kath Phillips gets ready for her annual charity walk to help St Giles Hospice

A COUNCILLOR is marking the 20th anniversary of her mother's death by raising money for a hospice. Kath Phillips has been doing a sponsored walk in February for the past five years in aid of Walsall St Giles Hospice but says this milestone anniversary is particularly poignant.

Her mother Muriel Fawdrey died aged 78 in Goscoe Hospital in 1995.

She said: "We didn't have a hospice then. I nursed her at home for a while but with a husband, three children and a job,

I couldn't carry on. Sadly she died in excruciating pain." The Bloxwich East representative has been hugely supportive of the hospice since it opened, and especially since spending time there visiting a close friend Vera Boddice.

She said the WS3 Friends of Walsall Hospice group were in need of a secretary since 80-year-old Vera Boddice had died. Anyone willing to take on the job, or donate to the charity, is asked to contact Councillor Phillips on 0745 821111.

# Cemetery to change its name, after row

A CEMETERY on the border of Walsall and Staffordshire that opened over a year ago is to change its name after numerous people complained.

Walsall Burial Park opened in November 2013 but since then people have contacted the owners to say they do not like the name as the site does not actually sit in Walsall, lies in Burntwood instead.

Bosses at private firm Springhill Cemetery asked for suggestions on social media and the name Chase & District Memorial Park was chosen. The signs at the site will change in the next few weeks.

General manager Kamran Saleem said: "We kept getting messages from people and comments. People were asking why it was called Walsall Burial Park. From our point of view the site's name is irrelevant but it has been a touchy subject for a lot of people.

"We put it out to public vote and asked them what they wanted it to be called. We have been staggered by the response.

Thousands of plots were purchased months in advance before the £1.4 million burial park opened over a year ago.

## Website work at the Manor

WALSALL Manor Hospital's website will be updated and its telephone system reviewed as part of efforts to tackle issues with a new computer system.

The Lorenzo system aims to improve the way patient records and appointment bookings are managed.

The hospital trust's director of finance and performance Ian Baines said: "We have made improvements to our systems for handling external calls to the trust, our referral process and outpatient clinics. These changes include increasing and realigning staffing levels."

## Royalty wanted

ORGANISERS of Willenhall Carnival need a new carnival Queen and royalty for this year's event on June 13.

They are also looking for traders and stallholders.

Anyone who takes on any of these rolls should call 01902 411611 or 07909

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# Education standards at school applauded

PUPILS and staff at a Walsall school and children's centre are celebrating after Ofsted inspectors said teaching was improving.

Phaeasy Park Farm Primary School and Children's Centre, in Phaeasy, is the largest primary in the borough with 634 on roll.

An Ofsted recent monitoring report found that the Wimperis Way school was making the required improvements in teaching.

The report stated that lessons continue to get better and teachers are implementing the school's policies more consistently.

Guidance to pupils on how to improve their work is more precise and helpful.

Governors have benefited from training and are asking questions that are more searching.

The presentation of pupils' work is improving.

The report stated: "Teaching continues to improve. Teachers have begun to benefit from participating in the outstanding teaching programme. Teachers follow school policies more consistently."

"Teachers are implementing the writing policy and model cursive handwriting. This is helping pupils improve the presentation of their work."

## Litter scheme 'is working'

A pilot project has helped to reduce litter and tackle fly-tipping in Walsall, say council chiefs.

Walsall Council has been trialling a seven-day project that has seen the clean and green services shift from the traditional 37 hours Monday to Friday.

A report from environment boss, councillor Lee Jeavons said, "This innovative way of working has brought many benefits including less build-up of litter especially at weekends, improved responsiveness to anti-social activity such as fly tips."

## Tattoo scheme

A former hairdressers could be transformed into a tattoo shop creating jobs, under new plans.

An application has been lodged for Portland Road, Aldridge, which would bring four full and part-time posts. It has been submitted to Walsall Council.

# Town garage leads way with £1-a-litre petrol



£1 a litre petrol, at Harvest Energy, Walsall

IT is what every motorist has been waiting for – petrol prices are finally dropping with some even going below £1 a litre.

For the first time in more than five years, that is now happening.

A forecourt in Walsall is one of the first in the country to drop the price of a litre of unleaded to a 99.7p and its owner claims it is 'greed' that makes others not do the same.

Supermarkets have begun to follow suit but there were warnings the discounting might not last as the AA dismissed it as a 'publicity stunt'

The average UK price of unleaded petrol

reached £1 per litre for the first time in November 2007.

Record global oil prices, which increased as a result of supply concerns and the weak dollar at the time, continued the rise.

Then there was the tax on fuel as well.

The cheapest litre in the West Midlands could yesterday be found at Ablewell Filling Station, Walsall, part of the Harvest Energy brand of forecourts.

As a result, the big four supermarkets cut the price of their fuel again.

Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Tesco knocked a further 2p off their petrol and

diesel. For Asda customers, the latest reduction means they will pay no more than 103.7p a litre on petrol, with diesel at 110.7p a litre.

Ablewell Service Station owner Velautham Sarveswaran said: "We have been following a business model where we strive to be the cheapest forecourt wherever we are and we will continue to help the motorist when we can."

"We have to work within our profit margins and when the customers ask us how we're able to keep our prices so low we tell them that it's because we're not greedy."

# Jail on hold for swindler in energy compensation con

**A FRAUDSTER who claimed he could get up to £5,000 compensation from energy companies then pocketed people's cash has been given a suspended jail term.**

Shaun Morris received £34,000 from 310 people across the West Midlands, including those in Walsall. He was handed £100 to £150 each time after saying he could get unrealistic amounts of cash back from big suppliers.

He claimed the service would be offered on a 'no win, no fee' basis after putting adverts in newspapers.

But the 45-year-old did not deliver and kept the money, becoming aggressive to some customers when they tried to cancel meetings or wanted to pull out, Stafford Crown Court was told.

He also claimed he could get an income tax rebate of around £6,000 and managed to get £323 for one woman from Wolverhampton. He kept that until he was quizzed by Staffordshire County Council trading standards officers and agreed to repay the sum.

## Engaging

Morris pleaded guilty to three counts of fraud by false representation, two counts of engaging in aggressive commercial practices and one of engaging in unfair practice between September 2012 and October 2013.

Morris, of Birch Road, Stone, was given a two-year prison sentence, suspended for two years, and ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work.

Mr Tony Watkin, prosecuting, said Energy Compensation Bureau had been established by Morris in Stafford in 2012, but he had no expertise or experience. He added the advertising used misrepresented the en-

by Craig Hughes

titlement to compensation. The court was told the victims included Phillip Eldershaw from Penkridge who was told he could get compensation of £3,000 from Npower and Susan Homer from Dudley, who could get up to £2,000.

After being in contact with Morris she then spoke to her energy supplier and told him she wanted to cancel a meeting.

The court was told he then started "ranting" at her and invoiced her £65. It was said he was persistent towards Louise Till from Stafford after she wanted to postpone a meeting with him. Among the 310 to have paid for his services included residents across Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley, Stafford, Birmingham and Telford.

Mr Peter McCartney, defending, said the father-of-two who previously served in the armed forces and construction industry had exaggerated on the level of compensation he could claim.

Trading standards are only aware of six people getting money back from energy companies at under £1,000. Compensation can be claimed for issues such as not being on the best tariff and overpayments.

## Museum sees red with latest project



Aldridge Transport Museum director Tony Land unveils the latest restoration project, a 1954 Bedford fire engine

IT may be feeling its age right now but this 1954 Bedford fire engine is about to become the latest attraction at a transport museum.

The classic emergency vehicle has been brought out of storage with the aim of restoring it to its original splendour. And visitors to its new home at Aston Manor Road Transport Museum in Aldridge will be able to watch its bit-by-bit rehabilitation – and lend a hand if they can.

The appliance served the West Midlands Fire Service from its former

headquarters at Lancaster Place, Birmingham.

When it became outdated in the late 1960s, it was sold to a business which used its 100ft turntable ladder to cut trees and repair chimneys. It was bought for preservation around 1990 and eventually came to the museum two years later.

Without the space or facilities to exhibit the engine, it has been kept at a farm ever since. The museum, which exhibits more than 20 vehicles, moved to its Shenstone Drive base in 2012.

Chairman Martin Fisher said: "It's a very interesting vehicle because of its age and because of its connection with Birmingham. Fire engines have got a lot more sophisticated by way of equipment. The extending ladder was German-made and was the height of technology at that time. Now they use the Simon Snorkel cherry-pickers."

"We've got people who are quite keen to do work on it. But it's going to be an expensive job and we're hoping the project might attract some financial support."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Calling for NHS funds for dentist

COUNCILLORS representing a Walsall neighbourhood have backed calls for a private dental clinic to be given NHS funding.

More than 400 people signed a petition calling for The Dentist Surgery in Liskeard Road, Park Hall, to be awarded a contract because owner Dr Rikki Dhody is being forced to turn away patients who cannot afford to pay for treatment.

The councillors also claim there is a need for a joint medical and community centre to be created in the ward.

### Flooding problem has been reduced

FLOODING has been reduced in Walsall after a new system was introduced to monitor gulleys, bosses say.

The impact of heavy rain fall in Walsall has been reduced, the town's head of transport said.

Lafarge Tarmac are contracted by the council to carry out highway repairs and maintenance to reduce the flooding.

In a report to councillors, Lee Jeavons, said: "This is helping to reduce the extent of ponding."

### Woman hurt as cars in collision

A WOMAN was injured in a collision between two cars in Walsall. Firefighters had to cut her free when she became trapped.

She was taken to hospital but her injuries are not thought to be life-threatening. The accident happened on Lichfield Road, Rushall, just after 5pm on Sunday. Earlier in the day firefighters from Willenhall had to rescue a teenager who got stuck in a children's swing.

### Next phase of water scheme

WORK on another phase of a water mains improvement scheme in the Black Country is pushing ahead.

Around £1.5 million is being invested in replacing pipes in Willenhall.

Work is to be carried out around Alton Avenue and Milford Avenue during the coming weeks and motorists are warned of possible delays.

### Plans for ramp

A ramp could be installed at a news and convenience store to improve access for shoppers.

An application has been submitted to Walsall Council by Beacon News, Beacon Road, Phaeasy.

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CHOP down laurels. Chop down apple tree. Chop down hydrangeas. Burn the lot in the brazier. Slash, hack, burn, burn, burn. Gardening. It's a man thing. But only in January.

A FEW days ago I wrote about the curious veil of silence which has descended on the Scottish bin-lorry tragedy. Six people were killed on December 22 when the lorry careered along the pavements of Glasgow. Yet all has gone very quiet. The city council says it will never identify the lorry driver or crew. Now, a senior Scottish lawyer says it could be years before the bereaved and injured are told what happened. He condemns Scotland's fatal-accident inquiry process as flawed and "bordering on inhumane." So far, no decision has even been taken on whether an inquiry will be held. You might imagine that Scots would be demanding answers to this appalling national tragedy. But the majority of comments I can find online insist the authorities know best and all will be sorted out eventually. I can only conclude that folk have more faith in their lords and masters north of the border than we have down here.

BACK in August I asked, in my cynical old way, whether William Pooley, the Ebola nurse, would feature in the New Year Honours List for risking his life to save the lives of others - "or does he have to sing pop songs, row a boat or ride a bike very fast as well?" In fact Pooley got nothing. Honours went to an actress who can impersonate Cilla Black, a fashion designer who invented the mini skirt 50 years ago, and to Joan Collins, presumably for being Joan Collins for all these years. Fine priorities, eh?

IN Wednesday's Thought for the Day (Radio 4) an Anglican bishop, Nick Baines, delivered a little homily, condemning protests in Germany against "the Islamisation of the West." He asked: "Why is it that in such matters, perception is so much more powerful than reality? Why is it that the fires of fear are so easy to stoke?" Five hours later Islamist gunmen burst into the offices of a satirical magazine and slaughtered a dozen Parisians. You were saying, Bishop . . . ?



MY item on the 30th anniversary of the mobile phone reminds an ex-cop of the happy days when these huge, expensive cellophones were used mainly by the media and criminal gangs. They were also dead easy to intercept, using scanners. He recalls endless hours of listening in on thug-chat which suddenly produced the whispered gem: "Seven, tomorrow night, the post office."

MORE tales from BM (Before Mobiles). A reader, inspired by the 30th anniversary of the first mobile-phone call, remembers the era when a colleague carried a bag of mints and humbugs for the specific purpose of bribing receptionists to allow him to use their phone to call his head office. He remembers getting his first mobile phone as "blissful". And what about the bliss of being able to bribe a receptionist with a humbug? Those were the days.

WASTE not, want not. Full marks to SpaceX, the American company aiming to recycle damn great parts of its space rockets by dropping them many thousands of feet out of the heavens and "soft-landing" them on a sea barge on the Atlantic. Not sure I'd want to be the skipper on that boat.

SO how's Dry January coming along? Missing a nice glass of Merlot yet? Aching for a pint of ale? I spotted this headline yesterday on a feature about alternatives to alcohol: "Soft drinks so tasty you won't miss booze." Oh, yes you will. No pop yet invented can compare with Mother Nature's oldest comedy double-act, the Brothers Ferment and Distil.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Tribunal backs sacking of former boss

SACKED Walsall Council social care boss Paul Davies was not unfairly dismissed, an employment tribunal judge has ruled. The chief took the authority to a tribunal after he was sacked for misconduct in March amid allegations he gave a credit union responsibility for £3.5 million of council cash without permission. The former executive director for social care and

inclusion at Walsall Council had been suspended for 15 months. The council had commissioned an independent investigation and a disciplinary hearing was held where a panel of elected members found Mr Davies was guilty of two counts of gross misconduct and a further five counts of misconduct. The panel found Mr Davies had approved the payment of invoices to a charitable

company of which he was a director, failed to adhere to the council's procurement rules and shared confidential council papers. His appeal was dismissed and Mr Davies hoped to clear his name in an employment tribunal in Birmingham in October and November last year. The tribunal heard claims that he authorised a £3.5 million payment to credit union Walsave

even though there were concerns about the procurement process. It was also claimed that he awarded work worth more than £480,000 to an organisation of which he is a trustee. A judgement issued by the tribunal said the panel was right to dismiss Mr Davies. The authority said it was making an application for costs.

# Council benefits crook stole £32k in two years

**A CROOKED benefits assessor pocketed over £32,000 in two years by pocketing bogus payments to phantom claimants.**

Anthony McHale, who had held the post with Wolverhampton City Council for 24 years, turned to crime in a desperate bid to get out of debt. The 56-year-old set up and managed six false housing benefit payment accounts for fictitious people.

by Simon Stone

The deception included fake national insurance numbers, said Miss Debbie Gould, prosecuting. Each was in the name of a woman who was said to have a partner called A McHaleMiss Gould revealed: "He set them up on his own, completed the application forms himself."

The devious assessor closed down the accounts after relatively short periods and opened a fresh one with a name of a different woman claimant to prevent detection, the court heard.

But he had to use genuine addresses for the scam to work - and that was his downfall. The landlord of a house in Bushbury Road, Heath Town, called the council in March last year to complain about housing benefit correspondence being sent to the property for a non-existent tenant.

The call was taken by McHale who 'deflected attention' by falsely suggesting that council staff had been sent to the address to verify the claim.

But when the landlord

phoned the department again on September 24 because nothing had happened the call was taken by a colleague and inquiries started. Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, said McHale had built up massive debts with five or six credit cards but had kept this secret from his wife. All but a couple of hundred pounds of the benefit officer's £22,000 wages went on paying off the debt which hit £80,000 it was claimed.

McHale, from Broad Lane North, Willenhall, who has no children and a working wife lives in a 'modest' two bedroomed house, the court heard. He is now jobless after being sacked and will spend his pension pot paying back the stolen money, said Mr Woolhouse.

McHale, of previous good character, admitted six charges of fraud involving a total of £32,326 and was given a 20 month prison sentence suspended for two years with 300 hours unpaid work.

# School looking to expand

FIRM plans for the multi-million pound expansion of a school in Walsall to cope with extra pupils have been lodged with the council.

King Charles Primary, Bentley wants to increase in size from the start of September to cater for more children.

A planning application for extensions and new building works on the site in Wilkes Avenue has now been put forward.

The aim is to increase nursery spaces from 52 to 78 and increase the reception year from 45 to 60 pupils. The cost is expected to be around £3 million.

# Spinning into fitness at baths



Leisure attendant Jordan Styns and Councillor Khizar Hussain at the Walsall Gala Baths

A NEW cycling studio, an expanded pool programme and a refurbished fitness suite are helping people to keep active in Walsall.

Extra classes are being provided at Walsall Gala Baths as part of the fresh Go!Fitness programme.

Daytime and evening classes are available covering everything from spinning to cardio, circuits and swimming. An instructor led fitness swim class is based in the Gala pool. Leisure chief councillor Khizar Hussain said: "If you're looking to boost your

health and fitness in the New Year the instructor-led classes are a great way of doing that whilst giving you the chance to meet new people at the same time."

As part of the launch of Go!Fitness classes will cost £3 until March 31 or £2 for Move It members. Monthly class memberships are available from £10 by direct debit and further details are available from Gala Baths reception, or at [www.walsall.gov.uk/walsall\\_gala\\_baths](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/walsall_gala_baths) or alternatively call the Gala baths on 01922 653150.

# Build-up of litter reduces with move

EXTENDING a new street cleaning regime to more town centres in Walsall has helped reduce costs and the build-up of litter, it has been claimed.

Street cleaning is being carried out seven days a week after a successful trial in Walsall's main town centre saw patterns change.

The team that picks up litter, sweep footpaths and remove fly-tipping, had worked five days a week, with limited hours at week-ends on Saturday and Sunday, but now offers services seven days a week after the pilot scheme was extended.

Walsall's environment and transport chief, Councillor Lee Jeavons said it had brought many benefits, including improved response times to fly-tipping and a boost to staff morale.

Councillor Jeavons said: "Following staff consultation we have been carrying out a pilot scheme within Walsall town centre and this has proved very successful in terms of maintenance standards and for the workforce."

"As a result the pilot has now been extended to the whole of the street cleansing service."

"This innovative way of working has brought many benefits."

# Pupils 'are overweight'

FOUR out of 10 children in Walsall are overweight or obese when they leave school, new figures claim.

Data released by Public Health England reveals that 40.8 per cent of 11-year-olds in the town are fat.

The figures also show 24.1 per cent are overweight when they start school.

The average in the West Midlands for 11-year-olds is 36 per cent, while 23.5 per cent of children start school overweight.

Public Health England released the figures as it launched its Change4Life campaign.

# Cooker fire

A cooker fire was sparked at a home in Darlaston. It is believed clothes had been dropped on top of the cooker and caught light.

The fire in Rough Hay Road was out by the time firefighters arrived. There was some smoke damage but no-one was hurt.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

**£57,000 church scheme to open**

A WALSALL church that launched an appeal to carry to carry work to extend the building and improve facilities will officially open on Saturday.

Delves Community Baptist Church launched an appeal for help to raise £57,000 to cover the cost of installing new toilets including an area for disabled visitors.

MP Valerie Vaz will perform opening ceremony at the premises in Bell Lane. Worshipers also want to build an extension to create a new baby changing area, counselling rooms and storage areas.

**Seats snapped up for Elton concert**

MOST of the box seats have sold out for Sir Elton John's summer concert at the Banks's Stadium. Walsall Football Club said its 24-seat directors lounge and all nine of its executive boxes have sold out for the show on June 13.

Chief executive Stefan Gamble said: "Hospitality package sales are going really well," adding that some packages were left priced at £225 per person.

The music legend will appear in Walsall as part of his European tour.

**Immigrant found in lorry is at large**

A SUSPECTED illegal immigrant who fled after being found in the back of a lorry at a service station on the M6 is still on the run.

Police were called to the northbound Hilton Park Services just before 10.40am on New Year's Eve. The man ran off but the woman was taken into custody.

He is described as having a tanned complexion and was possibly last seen in the Essington area.

**Dental lab given the go-ahead**

A former cookery shop in Cradley Heath will be turned into a dental laboratory.

Plans for the change of use of the former The Cook Shop in Halesowen Road were approved by Sandwell Council.

Plans for the change to a laboratory were submitted by applicant Fereshtech Foolady.

**Changes planned**

AN industrial unit in Bloxwich could be converted to carry out vehicle servicing and repairs.

A change of use application for the site in Croxstalls Place has been lodged with Walsall Council.

**Quit now call from former smoker**

A FORMER smoker, who had been lighting up for 40 years is urging people to follow his lead and stub out the habit.

Mick Hawkins has received support from a specialist from Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.

Walsall Council commissions six providers for stop smoking services as part of its public health function.

Former leather factory production manager Mick, aged 54 from Bloxwich, has now gone almost three months without a cigarette.

"My breathing is definitely better," he said. "I smoked around 20 a day for 40 years and was actually smoking roll-ups when I decided to give up."

"I started having health problems - I have got ataxia, a neurological condition, and have had heart problems. Every time I went to the doctor I was asked if I smoked. It doesn't matter what ailment I went with."

"I do miss that first cigarette of the day but I keep telling myself 'I don't smoke any more' and even though loads of my mates still smoke I just take myself off when they have a cigarette."

For more details on services to help quit smoking call 01922 444044.

**Gulleys move cuts flooding**

FLOODING has been reduced in a Black Country borough after a new system was introduced to monitor gulleys, bosses have said.

The impact of heavy rain fall in Walsall has now been reduced. Lafarge Tarmac are contracted by the council to carry out highway repairs and maintenance.

Transport chief Lee Jeavons, said: "Lafarge Tarmac and its specialist sub-contractor have developed an innovative, award-winning gully management system which has dramatically improved the level of information about their condition."

**Family sought**

WALSALL Healthcare NHS Trust is trying to locate the family of Dawn Miller, from Moxley, who was born in 1965.

Any relatives of the patient are asked to contact Julie Venables at Walsall Manor's general office on 01922 656207.

**Union calls for probe on City Link collapse**

A UNION has called for a full investigation into the collapse of delivery firm City Link after hundreds more workers lost their jobs. It followed an announcement by administrators that another 230 workers would lose their jobs and 51 depots close as the business is wound down.

Almost 2,400 jobs, including 491 in the West Midlands, were lost when the company went out of business over Christmas, as a last-ditch bid to save the firm failed.

Just 141 staff will now be kept on at City Link's Coventry head office and a handful of depots kept open, dealing with around

20,000 parcels still in the company's system. Rail, Maritime and Transport union general secretary Mick Cash said: "City Link staff who escaped the sack on New Year's Eve will be told that they are out of a job as the tide of human misery unleashed by the collapse of the company over Christmas continues to swell."

Administrators Ernst & Young have already announced an agreement to sell cages, scanners and also intellectual property to the DX Group for £1.1 million.

Mr Cash said: "With the administrators now conducting a fire sale of the City Link

assets, it is simply outrageous that the bandit capitalists who drove the company over the cliff have ring-fenced their investment as secured loans."

Mr Cash claimed shareholders 'will get first call on any cash raised while our members will be forced to wait months and can only expect a pittance'.

"The Rail, Maritime and Transport union continues to press for a full and forensic investigation into events leading to the collapse of the company," he said.

On New Year's Eve, more than 2,300 City Link workers were made redundant

after last-ditch efforts to rescue the parcel company failed.

At the time, Mr Cash had pleaded for more time for what he said was a 'credible bid' to salvage the company.

But administrators from Ernst & Young said the offer, from an unnamed consortium, 'significantly undervalued' the assets of City Link and offered no money up front.

The administrators made a counter-proposal but said 'the consortium, despite attempts to make them reconsider, declined to amend their original offer'. At City Link's Wednesbury depot, 47 staff lost their jobs.

**Referrals resume at home for elderly in care probe**

REFERRALS have resumed on a restricted basis at a Walsall care home for the elderly after an investigation over the quality of care.

Social care chiefs at Walsall Council suspended placements at Fernwood Court, in Bentley, when a complaint was made to them last year. No details have been revealed about the nature of the complaint. The council said it has lifted the suspension, but with conditions.

It said Fernwood, in Wolverhampton Road West, is restricted to taking one new placement per month while further improvements are made. The suspension was lifted last month shortly before Christmas.

There is room for 59 residents at the complex which has around 50 staying there. Placements paid for by the council's social care department were stopped following an anonymous complaint. Town hall officials stopped referrals while the matter was looked into.

Under a new scheme, The Energy Savings Trust is offering free installations to both homeowners and tenants subject to residents having a home survey and meeting the criteria covering some welfare benefits.

Potential applicants are being advised that the offer is not suitable for those in need of emergency replacements. Advisers will carry out telephone interviews to determine whether or not people are eligible for assistance and if so, a new boiler could be fitted within weeks.

Walsall Council's social care chief Councillor Diane Coughlan said: "This could be a real bonus for Walsall's residents who meet the criteria and are struggling to pay their heating bills or find the money for a replacement boiler. "I urge people to contact the Energy Savings Trust or the council's own healthy homes officer." The trust's phone number is 0300 123 1234.

At the time of the report Fernwood said the home was providing safe and appropriate care that was responsive and meeting the needs of people living there.

**Allegations**

The council stated: "The suspension was lifted to a restriction of one new placement per month while we await a further period of sustained improvement."

Four Seasons, the health-care firm which runs Fernwood, said 'a thorough investigation' had been carried out and that had been completed and none of the allegations were substantiated.

A Care Quality Commission inspection last September and found that staff at the home were caring, but there were concerns about the number of people on duty.

At the time of the report Fernwood said the home was providing safe and appropriate care that was responsive and meeting the needs of people living there.

**Visitor centre is last piece of the jigsaw**



A view of the visitor centre's construction in progress at the Walsall Arboretum, which is due to be finished soon

IT is the final piece of the multi-million pound revamp of Walsall Arboretum - and work on the new visitor centre is now just months away from completion.

The £7.9 million transformation of the town's premier park has been going on for more than four years, with work on the centre due to be finished this spring.

Work on the building, based on Centre Green, started last year and it will feature a cafeteria, classroom, chang-

ing rooms, baby-changing facilities, a meeting room, offices and toilets.

Contractors Willmott Dixon Ltd have made the new structure watertight, installed mains connections and are now focusing on the interior.

The landscaping of the nearby embankment has also started with bulbs, shrubs and trees planted with more planned in the coming months.

Contractors also started work towards the installation of lighting for the main pathways around the

historic core of the park just before Christmas. The illuminated aspect of the restoration will see main routes through the Arboretum lit up along with its key natural features.

Leisure chief, Councillor Khizar Hussain said: "2015 is a landmark year for our much-loved Walsall Arboretum as it's the year that the park's magnificent restoration is completed."

"The visitor centre is a key feature that will open up so many more opportunities for the visitors of all ages."

# Dean Harper

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

KATIE Hopkins, the one-time Apprentice candidate who now plies her trade trying to offend as many people as she possibly can with vitriolic comments on Twitter, surely hit a new low with her diatribe about Pauline Cafferkey.

Pauline is the Scottish nurse who contracted Ebola after taking part in an aid mission to help sufferers in Sierra Leone.

Whatever one's views of the mission, the risks involved, or the screening process for people returning from Sierra Leone, referring to somebody whose life is in grave danger as a "sweaty Glaswegian Ebola bomb" is surely beyond the pale.

And, I would venture to suggest, a nurse who has put her life on the line to help save others, demonstrates far more courage than somebody whose main claim to fame is appearing on a television reality show and making snide remarks about northern car salesmen.

Nevertheless, I'm totally with Hopkins when she says the police should have better things to do than become embroiled in the row about her online bile.

### Defend

Det Insp Glyn Roberts of Police Scotland said: "Inquiries are ongoing into the nature of these tweets and to establish any potential criminality."

What? Inquiries are ongoing? Her rant consisted of 19 words. How long does it take to investigate that?

And how can there possibly be any criminality in a few rude words about the Scots' propensity to perspire?

Hopkins has hit back, saying 'the freedom to say only things that are polite is no real freedom of speech at all', and while it pains me to say it, the old trout has hit the nail on the head.

The French philosopher Voltaire famously said: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

And the police – not to mention the 'hundreds' of people who complained about her tweets – would do well to take that on board.

Most right-thinking people will disapprove of what Hopkins has to say on many things.

She makes her living trying gain people's disapproval, and of course they play right into her hands every time they rise to the bait.

But if we really do value the freedom of speech which we have taken for granted for centuries, we must all defend her right to be rude and unpleasant.

Det Insp Roberts should have told the hundreds of complainants to get a life – and then instructed his officers to catch some real criminals instead.



Cannock is to get its own Marks and Spencer store



Flying the flag for another Black Country day in 2015



Cyrille Regis with a small model of the Baggies statue

# Yes we're on track for a brighter 2015

Reasons to be cheerful – and for the region there really are plenty of them, as **JORDAN HARRIS** explains

**NEW year is a time for positivity and looking ahead to a brighter future.**

2015 is promising to be a fantastic year right across the West Midlands, and here are just 15 reasons why we are looking forward to what it has in store.

1. Completion of M6 Smart Motorway Project. For years our roads have been neglected, but now they are due to be brought forward into the 21st century. Turning the M6 into a smart motorway will bring benefits including smoother flow of traffic, more reliable journey times and fewer collisions.

2. Unveiling of the Three Degrees statue. Laurie Cunningham, Brendon Batson and Cyrille Regis helped bring down racism on the terraces during their playing days for West Bromwich Albion. A bronze statue, costing £220,000, will be erected in West Bromwich town centre, portraying the legendary trio.

3. Black Country Day Festival. Organisers of the event designed to celebrate all that is great about the Black Country have said they intend to build on the success of last year's festival in 2015. The day to mark on your calendar is July 14.

4. New A&E Wolverhampton. A new £30m emergency centre at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital is expected to be one of the finest in the country. Its accident and emergency department will be three times the size of the current one. The centre will provide crucial extra capacity for patients when it opens in November 2015.



Elton John, all set for Banks's Stadium during his European tour in June

5. Sir Elton John comes to Banks's Stadium. There is expected to be a sell-out crowd at Walsall Football Club's ground on June 13. It will be the club's first outdoor concert in over 20 years, with the ground's normal 11,300 capacity extended to around 17,000.

6. Birmingham New Street refurbishment completion. New parts of New Street station have already opened and the stations has been better equipped to cope with the thousands of people who pass through it daily.

7. Dudley town centre revamp. Residents in Dudley will see the final product of the town centre's makeover in 2015, including its historic market place. The new-look market will have 74 stalls, new paving and feature lighting.

8. Wolverhampton youth zone. Wolves chairman Steve Morgan has said that the £6m youth zone project, to be called The Way, will be something for Wolverhampton to be proud of, allowing youngsters to take part in five-a-

side football, amateur dramatics, music, dancing, basketball, netball and a host of other activities.

9. Completion of Midland Metro service between Wolverhampton and Birmingham. The completion of Metro tracks between Wolverhampton and Birmingham will be great news for all.

10. New West Bromwich Building Society headquarters. The 70,000 sq ft new landmark site will house 700 staff in the five-storey complex at the Providence Place development in West Bromwich.

11. Castle Creatures at Dudley Zoo. An interactive medieval experience featuring live animals will tell the story of the Earl of Dudley's family and explain the history of the castle.

12. Wolverhampton interchange. It is set to become the heart of the city's transport network at the centre of a £111.7m regeneration in the city. 2015 is set to be another year of solid progress for the Wolverhampton Interchange project, which aims to combine rail, tram and bus services as well as restaurants, office space and shops.

13. Cannock gets its first Marks and Spencer. Cannock has long aspired to having an M&S store. In 2012, its name was at the top of the wish list of brands council bosses hoped to attract.

14. A £7m Wednesbury leisure centre. A 25-metre pool, two dance studios and a 100-station fitness suite are just some of the attributes Wednesbury's new multi-million pound leisure will have to offer locals. The site is due to open in April 2015.

15. A £50m Mailbox redevelopment. The former Royal Mail sorting office was sold in 2011 and new owners Brockton Capital and Milligan Retail have now confirmed their plans for a regeneration.

## WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

FOUR million conversations are what the Labour party's leader says it must hold between now and polling day.

Between them, shadow chancellor Ed Balls and shadow work and pensions secretary Rachel Reeves clocked up a few of those in Staffordshire and the Black Country recently.

With no party commanding an overall majority in the Commons, the run-up to the May 7 General Election is going to be something of a level playing field between Labour and the Conservatives.

They both need to hold on to every seat they won last time and to win even more if they are to avoid another compromise-laden coalition.

Both are losing votes to other parties, specifically UKIP, the Greens and the SNP (north of the border, obviously).

Hence Miss Reeves played the consolidation game in Dudley North, the most marginal Labour seat in the Black Country while Mr Balls headed for Cannock Chase.

The latter was the scene of a symbolic defeat, at least in numerical terms, for Labour. It's where the Tories saw the largest swing to them in 2010.

It contains, in theory, the largest proportion of voters who were prepared to desert one party for its arch enemy. If Labour can win this back, it stands to reason it can win back others as well.

### Voter

In the 1990s we had Essex Man, the typical voter described as 'working class, father electrician, right-wing, keen hanger, noisily rambunctious, no subtlety'. Then Tony Blair came up with another type of voter, the so-called Mondeo Man.

"His dad voted Labour," he said. "He used to vote Labour, too. But he'd bought his own house now. He'd set up his own business. He was doing very nicely. 'So I've become a Tory', he said. In that moment, he crystallised for me the basis of our failure. His instinct was to get on in life. And he thought our instincts were to stop him."

In both Labour visits to the Black Country and Staffordshire, the front-benchers met apprentices. Under Mr Blair there was a drive to get half of young people into higher education. Now there's a renewed interest in apprenticeships to give employers the skilled workforce they need.

While Mr Balls was tinkering around on a go-kart with two student mechanics at South Staffordshire College it occurred to me that Cannock Mechanic could well determine the outcome of this election.

Whether it's the young voter or their parent or grandparent, all of them want to know the younger ones are going to have a chance to get on in life, get a job and make a contribution.

## ADVERTISEMENT

# Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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# Ebay auction no-go after bike theft

AFTER reading our various articles I would like to relate a story to you. I live in Walsall and in late October my shed was broken into. I discovered the break-in and contacted the police.

The burglars had taken my bike and numerous toolboxes. The tools were later found nearby and recovered but the bike remains lost in action.

I searched eBay for the stolen bike. The bike is an unusual model so should be easy to find. Just over a month later a model matching mine had in fact turned up on eBay. With one day of the auction left I was contacted by a female

constable. I was told that there was nothing they could do. It was suggested that I contact the seller and point out that the bike was mine. Meanwhile she would contact eBay and get the seller's address. I may not be fully conversant with criminal investigation but any contact with the offender would surely scare him/her away. The only offered alternative was for me to win the bid and go to collect the bike. Once I was sure it was mine I could then call the police to report it.

The seller had however blocked bids from new accounts further adding

to suspicion that the seller was fully aware that he/she was selling stolen property. The description gave a false account of having used the bike for two years for commuting to and from work. What I do know is that if an arrest had been made for selling stolen goods, the police would have the power to search the place of arrest.

This was only a shed, only a bike, but who knows what this could have resulted in, how many crimes could have been cleared up?

**T P MIDDLETON  
Walsall**

## Visa block led to my family split

IN answer to R Foster's letter about the Puchy family from Australia being deported from UK because of visa technicality, I had a similar experience.

I was took to live in Australia when I was 14 (ten pound pommies). In 1960 I married an Australian whose grandparents were English. We came to live in England with our two Australian sons in 1970, one four and a second son 18 months old.

My husband was hard working and no convictions. He landed here on a Monday and started work on the Wednesday. When his 12 month visa was up we applied for him to stay.

But he had to return to Australia, I had my English passport so obviously I could stay. He was then going to work in Aus and save our fares but as time passed he met someone else so we ended up divorced.

Good luck to the Puchy family.  
**P PERKINS, Walsall**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Walsall Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

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## Winnick may want to look at reasons

RECENTLY the Labour Member of Parliament for Walsall North, David Winnick, proposed that voting in the UK should be compulsory with those who fail to vote being fined. Mr Winnick should examine the reasons why people choose not to use their mandate at election time.

If he asked, Mr Winnick may find the reason many chose not to vote is due to the fact that they either have given up on the political parties they once voted for, or that there is no point in voting as the three old political parties, Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat, are all the same - no matter which of these three they vote for nothing changes.

The reason for this is that no matter who is elected to govern, Labour, Conservative or over the last few years, a Tory Liberal Democrat coalition, they have in reality not voted for a Government but in fact an administration. This country is now so controlled and dominated by the European Union it has become our real unelected government.

On that basis how can you blame people for not voting when the problem lies with people such as Mr Winnick who has been complicit in giving our national sovereignty away to the EU. Forcing people to vote will not save this country, only EU withdrawal can do that.

**Derek Bennett, UKIP parliamentary candidate Walsall South**

## Heartfelt thanks to hospital

OUR eldest son has reached the ripe old age of 18. We would like to send our heartfelt thanks to the staff of the Manor Hospital, without whom neither myself nor my son would be here. I went into premature labour on the cusp of 27/28 weeks whilst stuck in three lanes of stationary traffic on the M6.

We found ourselves surrounded by lovely people. When we eventually made it to a hospital closer to home, we met the family who have become our greatest friends.

Their twins and our son are all now six feet tall and completing their A-Levels! We were told that they would always be small and experience developmental difficulties but as each obstacle was overcome, the boys have proved everyone wrong!

So thank you Walsall, for us it proved to be 'right place, right time'.

We will never forget you,  
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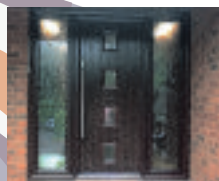
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# Happy family as heart-op Sebastian is back home

TO say the last three years have been a struggle for the Garrett family is an understatement.

When Sebastian was born in 2011, parents Stuart and Jenny were over the moon to welcome their second child into the world.

But things took a turn for the worst when he was only six-weeks-old – during a routine check, a heart murmur was detected.

Doctors soon diagnosed him with a severe heart condition and since then he has had to undergo three major operations and now only has half a heart.

But the youngster is all smiles after making a full recovery from surgery and returning home to his family in Cheslyn Hay and was returning to play school this week.

Mr Garrett said: “It has been a tough three years. Sebastian went in for a routine check at six weeks and doctors picked up a heart murmur. We were allowed that day to go home, but things took a turn for the worst overnight and we had to take him into Stafford Hospital.

“He wasn’t feeding properly and was breathless. He was connected up to an oxygen machine and had very low levels in his blood. He was struggling for oxygen. We took him into Birmingham Children’s Hospital and he was diagnosed with a severe heart condition.”

At seven weeks Sebastian underwent a heart operation and at 13 months had his first open heart surgery at Birmingham Children’s Hospital. In November last year he underwent his third procedure and returned home just in time for Christmas.

Mr Garrett continued: “Sebastian now has what they call a handmade heart. Only two chambers of his heart work instead of four. Essentially he’s only got half a heart. The staff at Birmingham Children’s Hospital were



Seb Garrett, with his sister Livia-Rose, and parents Stuart and Jenny

fantastic. The nurses there and the surgeons are so good at what they do. “There is no better place to take your child than there.”

Since the operation, Sebastian has to take anticoagulant drug Warfarin every day as his blood is three times thinner than a healthy child. The youngster also has to have regular weekly hospital checks.

But Mr Garrett, who is a business development executive, added: “Sebastian looks like a normal, healthy child – you wouldn’t know he only has half a heart just by looking at him.

“It’s great that he’s going back to play school next week. There are risks though. If say he fell and banged his head, he could have internal bleeding

and as his blood is a lot thinner than it should be, it is harder for it to clot. Doctors have said in the years to come he’ll need a heart transplant, but we’ll face that decision when it comes.”

Mr Garrett added he and his wife Jenny, 29, a full-time mother and their daughter Livia-Rose, four, were delighted to have Sebastian back home.

Mr Garrett said: “Sebastian can’t run like other children. He gets very breathless, but he gives it a go.”

Birmingham Children’s Hospital provides the widest range of children’s health services for young patients, with more than 257,000 patient visits recorded every year. Sebastian is one of only eight children in the Walsall and Cannock area to be on Warfarin.

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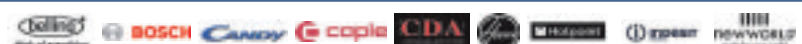
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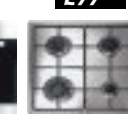


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## Demand for food bank is growing



**Volunteers Alison Myatt and Andrew Birkbeck, at the food bank at Pelsall Methodist Church**

A food bank which launched three months ago at a church in Walsall has already helped more than 100 families and saw increased demand in the run up to Christmas.

Walsall North food bank set up at Pelsall Methodist Church in September to give emergency food parcels to families facing difficulties.

It is open twice a week and runs within the guidelines set by the Trussell Trust, a charity which co-ordinates a nationwide network of food banks.

Since setting up, volunteers at the food bank said it had been well supported by businesses and the community who have made donations.

Steve Pickersgill, vice-chairman of the steering committee which runs the food bank, said: "Demand has increased since we started."

"We have not been closed over the Christmas period and we saw at least 25 people in the week running up to Christmas. In the first two months, we helped over 75 families."

For more information, call 01922 445802.

# Walk-in site will move to Saddlers shops mall

**WALSALL** Walk-In Health Centre will relocate to the Saddlers Shopping Centre in the summer under the latest plans.

The decision comes after a successful public plea to keep it in the main town centre after it is forced to move from its current site in Digbeth due to regeneration work.

However, health chiefs say it still faces being moved to Walsall Manor Hospital by 2020 under changes to the borough's urgent care services.

by Craig Hughes

A public consultation over the future of the walk-in centre was held between May and August this year.

People were asked whether they wanted to see the facility moved to another site in the town centre, relocated to the north of the borough or merged with the existing emergency and urgent care walk-in centre at Manor Hospital.

More than 60 per cent of the 562 people who responded want to keep an urgent care walk-in service in the town centre and it has now been confirmed the Saddlers Shopping Centre has been identified.

However, there is a long-term vision for some urgent and emergency care services to be brought together at Walsall Manor's A&E department which would be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Further assessment over parking and transport links to the hospital need to be carried out.

A statement from Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group said: "Following a decision of the CCG Governing Body at its meeting on November 27, Walsall Walk-In Health Centre is due to be relocated to the Saddlers Shopping Centre in summer 2015. The move will ensure the walk-in centre access is retained in the town centre

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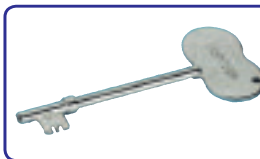
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# Ex-UKIP chief under fire in 'ethnic cleansing' row

**CONTROVERSIAL** comments made by the former chairman of the Walsall branch of UKIP have been branded 'foolish' and 'mis-guided'.

Phil Bottomley has stood down after claiming Britain is going through a form of 'ethnic cleansing' because of immigration.

Mr Bottomley made the comments on his personal blog leading for calls for him to be dismissed from the party. He wrote that 'Labour's deliberate plan of uncontrolled immigration policy was a classic case of ethnocide'.

"Put simply it is the cleansing or diminishing of an indigenous population by methods other than mass extermination. It is a fact that by 2070 the immigrant population will be ahead of the indigenous peoples of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland."

## Condemn

Leader of Walsall Council, Councillor Sean Coughlan, said the remarks, claiming that immigration was leading to the 'ethnocide' of 'indigenous' people of the UK were 'abhorrent and dangerous' and called on the three UKIP members on Walsall Council to condemn the comments. UKIP has said the remarks were 'foolish' and has referred the matter to its national executive committee but called Labour's response 'highly exaggerated' and 'inflammatory'.

Councillor Coughlan said: "In a town that has a wonderful mix of cultures, I find these comments abhorrent. Here in Walsall we've faced various attempts to spread hatred, from the BNP peddling their racist ideology, to the EDL who came to our town and rioted, and even a murderous attempt to bomb a mosque. When those events happened, I am proud to say that members of all parties, faiths and communities, condemned them and stood against them."

Walsall North MP, David Winnick added: "We will continue to oppose those sorts of remarks, and will not retreat from this."

## Titchmarsh show boost



Tony and Marie Newton's magnificent garden in Buchanan Road, Walsall, seen at the time of filming for the Alan Titchmarsh show

TWO picturesque gardens in Walsall are to feature on a new TV series after being selected from more than 600 nationally.

The gardens have been chosen to feature on Alan Titchmarsh's show. The award-winning Four Seasons in Buchanan Road and Hidden Gem garden in St John's Road, Pleck, made it to the final shortlist.

There were more than 600 applicants from which the 30 favourites were picked by the TV gardener to appear in his series Britain's Best Back Gardens. They are due to feature on episode one which looks at challenging plots. Tony Newton, of

the Four Seasons garden, said: "It is remarkable that out of 600 gardens, two Walsall gardens were selected in the final 30. Marie and I are honoured that our garden has been chosen. We designed our garden to be beautiful in all four seasons and we think that this particularly impressed Alan."

Filming at the Four Seasons garden took place in July, when there was a flash thunderstorm. Marie added: "Alan wrote in our visitor's book: 'Thank you for a memorable visit to a very special garden, seen at its best in thunder and lightning!'"

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Walsall Chronicle



# Bull is farm's most eligible bachelor



Stockman Wayne Vale introduces the farm's new six-year-old traditional Hereford breeding bull named Vampire

MEET Vampire, the five-year-old Hereford breeding bull.

And it just so happens to be Vampire's lucky day as he's been introduced to more than 45 lovely ladies at Forge Mill Farm.

Bosses at the fully working farm, at Sandwell Valley in West Bromwich, bought Vampire five weeks ago and he will stay for the foreseeable future as its resident breeding bull.

Stockman Wayne Vale from West Bromwich said: "He is a great bull.

"Some can be a little bit difficult but he has a really nice temperament which is important on a farm like this.

"He isn't happy when you take him away from the ladies though."

Vampire arrived at the farm last

month and has spent the last few weeks in quarantine. "Vampire comes from a long line of breeding bulls so that is where his strange name came from," Mr Vale said.

"Every animal has their own name and that is his.

"We were on the lookout for a breeding bull so we went to market to find one. We found out that another farm had one up for sale so we went for him instead.

## Quarantine

"Although you have an agreement on trust with the other farm that everything will be normal you still have to be careful when you introduce

a new animal into the herd. They can bring all sorts of things with them so we have to put them into quarantine for a while." When Vampire was released from quarantine Mr Vale said the ladies took to him almost immediately.

"The heifers seem to like him," Mr Vale said. "Not to be crude but he has already started paying them visits and getting to work as it were.

"We will keep him for a few years until he starts interbreeding and then we will have to move him on as we can't have that.

"I do not think that will be for a while yet though, he has got quite a few potential partners to get through first."



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## FOCUS ON BLOXWICH

# Family launch legal bid over patient's treatment

A BUSY road will be closed for three days as part of the electrification of the main Walsall to Rugeley rail line.

The bridge on Broad Lane, Bloxwich, was closed for several months in 2013 as a railway bridge needed to be raised as part of the £30 million plans to speed up the line and improve signals and platforms.

Network Rail has said the road will now be closed for three days from tomorrow, Friday. The route is used by motorists travelling between Bloxwich and Essington and from traffic coming off the M6.

Essington Parish Council chairman David Cliff said: "This is going to cause more havoc in the area after we thought we had got over all the upheaval. I have voiced my concerns to Network Rail and we are hopeful they will take this on board."

## Wetherspoon pub deadline

FINAL preparations are being made by JD Wetherspoon for the opening of The Bloxwich Showman in Bloxwich High Street on January 27.

And Wetherspoon's says it is planning to open at least 20 new pubs in the West Midlands over the next five years. Among its projects is the £1.5 million Hedgford Lodge in Anglesey Street, Hednesford, which will open on April 14.

**LEGAL action has been launched against a hospital after claims a woman with severe learning disabilities received poor care and a doll she treated like a baby was damaged.**

The family of Susan Hearsey allege the 64-year-old was subjected to 'inhumane' treatment after being admitted to Walsall Manor.

Formal proceedings have now been launched against Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust amid deep concerns about her care in 2013 and the impact it has had on her since.

It is claimed that staff were distracted while on duty and lacked an understanding of her special needs. It is also alleged she was not provided adequate hygienic care and that the doll she loved as if it was her own baby was purposefully damaged by a nurse because Susan was not doing as she was asked.

Human rights expert Merry Varney, who is representing the family on behalf of law firm Leigh Day, said there were a number of 'deeply concerning' aspects. Susan was admitted to the hospital following a fall while she was in a residential home. She had lived with her parents on the

by Craig Hughes

Beechdale estate until their death 15 years ago.

According to her sister, Jane Dunn, of Bloxwich, the doll named Rachel was found on the floor with its arm severed, some clothes missing and a chunks of its hair missing. It is claimed that earlier staff had been throwing the doll to each other like a ball.

Other allegations are she was unclean and unkempt, an air mattress was found deflated and on one occasion she was found in a soiled bed during her stay in September 2013.

It has been claimed a nurse also stuck her fingers up Susan's nose causing it to bleed when she wouldn't take her medicine. Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust was unavailable for comment.



Legal action – Jane Dunn with her sister Susan's doll



Special needs – Susan Hearsey

## Golf course expert set for award

HE had dedicated his working life to keeping the greens and fairways in pristine condition including a golf club in Bloxwich.

Now, Paul Mills is poised to be recognised as one of the country's top course managers after he was nominated for a prestigious national award.

The 33-year-old is one of four course managers to be put forward for an STRI Golf Award, the industry standard that recognises botanical expertise when it comes to maintaining golf courses.

Mr Mills started working at Penn Golf Club's home on the Penn Common course seven years ago, having previously performed a similar role at Bloxwich and Stratford-on-Avon. The awards ceremony will be held in Harrogate on Wednesday.

## Seamstress to lead class

TV seamstress Jenni Taylor holds special sewing classes in Bloxwich for the over-50s next month.

The Great British Sewing Bee contestant, from Walsall, will show how to give worn clothes a new lease of life at the Stan Ball Centre on February 28 from 9.30am to 4.30pm. It costs £30 per person.

Entertainer Chris Carter is there on January 27 from 1-3pm. Tickets cost £2. Call 01922 403351 to book up.

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# Striking sunset view shines like a beacon



Ruth Duncombe's spectacular sunset picture as taken by her during a walk up Barr Beacon after Christmas

WHEN Ruth Duncombe and her husband were taking a post-Christmas walk up Barr Beacon, she managed to catch one of the last beautiful sunsets of the year on her camera.

Mrs Duncombe, from Pheasey, Great Barr, snapped the image on her brand new compact camera she got as a Christmas present. The 53-year-old learning support co-ordinator found a passion for photography after going on walks with her husband.

She said: "Me and my husband go out for walks regularly and I always take my camera with me. It has never been anything serious for me, I just enjoy taking photos.

"We decided to go for a walk up Barr Beacon late afternoon on December 29 as the weather was so beautiful.

"We started walking around three o'clock and when we reached the top at four o'clock we witnessed this really beautiful sunset.

"I love to take photos of flowers and the weather, so this was the perfect opportunity."

# Court order for burglar who hid in nearby bush

**A BURGLAR from Walsall who stole £1,000 of equipment from a firm in Telford was found hiding in a bush by police, a court was told.**

Sean Pagett admitted breaking into the premises of Vantage VC in Halesfield, using a crowbar to smash open roll up shutters. A spokeswoman for the probation service said Pagett had owed money.

And he was told that his debt would be cancelled if he took part in the burglary.

Prosecuting at Telford Magistrates' Court on Monday, Mrs Kate Price said that Pagett, 27, was discovered by police in a bush nearby the site of the break-in on December 23.

Mrs Price said that Pagett had activated an alarm, alerting the company owner who was at home and called the police.

When police arrested Pagett they found a car key on him and used to it open his vehicle where two drills and a battery charger with a total value of £1,000 were discovered.

Mrs Price said the victim had put the total cost of temporary and permanent repairs and lost work and time following the burglary at £4,829.

Pagett, of Rowland Gardens, Walsall, was given a 12-month community order

including 200 hours of unpaid work.

He was ordered to pay compensation of £1,100, costs of £85 and a victim surcharge of £85. In a statement read to the court the victim said he had lost sleep and was now "constantly worried".

In mitigation Mr David Nash said that his client accepted his part in the burglary, but added that he had only been the driver for three other people who took part.

The court was told that Pagett was currently unemployed but was due to start full-time work at the end of the month and had no drugs or alcohol problems that were usually related to such crimes.



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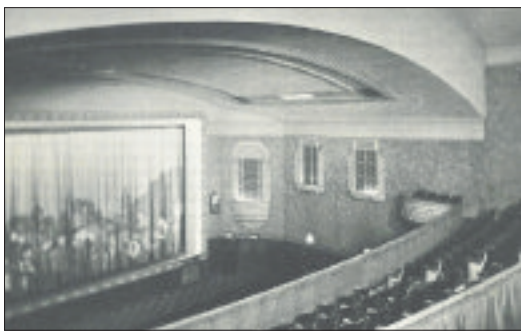
Cricket being played at Dunstall Park in the 1980s



Pupils and teachers at The Higher Grade School, Newhampton Road, 1921



Wolverhampton Engraving Co Christmas party in the Victoria Hotel, 1928



The 1,400 seat Dunstall Odeon Cinema on Stafford Road



Stafford Road bridge over the canal circa 1972

# Development near estate put racing on the right track

**IN 1825 Sir Alexander Staveley Hill was born in Dunstall Hall, pleasantly out in the countryside some distance from Wolverhampton.**

He was to bitterly oppose the building of the Birmingham to Shrewsbury Railway, which opened in 1854 overlooking the eastern side of his property, followed by the construction of Oxley Sidings and, worst of all, the Great Western Railway locomotive works on the other side, looming over him on Dunstall Hill.

## Changes

The march of the new terraced streets of Whitmore Reans right up to the western side of his estate, must have been the final straw, and he moved out, to Oxley Manor, and sold Dunstall Park to a new racecourse company in 1887.

Over the next 100 years the changes to the area around Dunstall Hill were minimal, but in the last 40 years small changes have made parts of the district hard to recognise in pho-

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

tographs which were taken only recently. The locomotive works were replaced by an industrial estate on Dunstall Hill, while the steady upgrade of the Stafford Road to a dual carriageway caused the Dunstall Odeon Cinema opposite the end of Bushbury Lane, to be demolished in 1981.

The railway bridges nearer to town were changed and Christchurch on Five Ways Island was replaced by a mosque.

The racecourse itself was even redeveloped in 1993 and turned from a traditional all-grass course with a triangular layout, and ageing facilities, to an oval all-weather, floodlit course.

There are parts of Wolverhampton which are entirely recognisable in photographs taken 100 years ago, and that may be true of certain places in Dunstall. But in others, 40 years ago is like a foreign land.



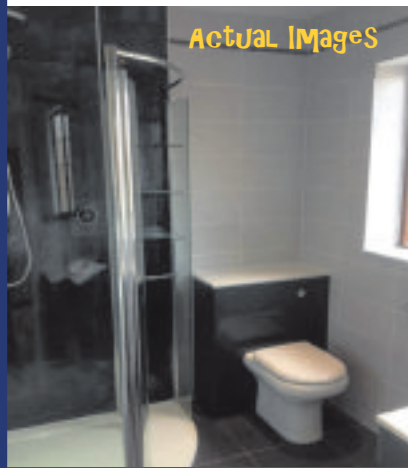
The Stafford Road bridges in 1970 are almost traffic free

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## Service by Yale staff milestone

A GROUP of Black Country security workers are celebrating after they clocked up more than 500 years of service between them.

The team of 17 staff who all work in the Masterkey department at Yale UK's depot in School Street, Willenhall, have each committed an average of more than 30 years on the job.

They include the longest serving member, John Edgington, 59, from Willenhall, who has been with the firm for 42 years.

Team manager Matthew Woodhouse, 43, from Great Wyrley, said: "I'm proud to be part of a team that has clocked up over 500 years service."

"The fact we've worked together for so long just shows that we are a well-oiled team, with a wealth of expertise."

The Masterkey team builds padlocks and cylinders for a variety of customers, including British Rail, Builders Merchants and Aldridge Security.

For information about Yale UK please visit [yale.co.uk](http://yale.co.uk)

# Number of people injured on roads in town is halved

**THE number of people injured on roads across Walsall has almost halved within five years, figures have revealed.**

There were 1,038 collisions where injuries occurred in 2008 which was cut to 530 around the borough in 2013.

Steps have been taken to reduce accidents in Walsall with 20mph zones and speed warning Watchman signs aimed at cutting motorist speeds.

A report from transport chiefs to councillors said a new road safety plan is now being developed. It will aim to help further reduce casualties.

Statistics show there were three fatalities, 64 serious injuries and 464 collisions where people were slightly hurt in 2013.

There has been a decrease in casualties year on year since 2008, where there were eight deaths and 97 serious injuries.

The report from head of engineering and transportation, Steve Pretty, said: "The total number of casualties across all severity groups has consistently reduced year on

year since 2008 and is currently at its lowest level since records began.

"However, despite this improvement, there remain in excess of 500 casualties involved in road traffic collisions every year in the borough.

"The traffic safety and operation team undertakes a detailed annual review of all personal injury collisions occurring across the borough and implements a range of work programmes to improve the network and reduce collisions."

The Watchman signs have been used in a bid to slow down drivers on major routes on Broadway, Sutton Road and Northgate in Aldridge.

They can flash up a drivers' registration number or the speed limit of the road and there are proposals to introduce another one along Birmingham Road, which runs between Walsall town centre and Great Barr.

It is part of an overall £180,000 package of improvements along Birmingham Road and Caldmore Road.

The 20mph speed limits has been used in some residential areas around the borough.

## Emmy ready for kick-off in the Orient



Emmy Knight, aged 11, celebrates winning gold representing England at the European Karate Championships at her home in Tameside Close, Willenhall

A YOUNGSTER from the Black Country has set her sights on a chance to compete in an international martial arts competition in the Far East.

Emmy Knight, aged 11, won gold and silver medals at the 2014 European Wadokai Karate Championships recently held in Reading. Now the Willenhall youngster has been selected to represent England in the World Championships in Nagoya, Japan, later this year. She is also training for the European Championships due in Hungary.

She trains numerous times a week at the town's Sakura Karate Academy based, in High Road, Lane Head, including sessions with the national coach Peter May.

Parents Mark, 43, and Becky, 36, also karate instructors, set up the academy in 2009 and moved to their current base six months ago. Mr Knight says: "We are so proud of Emmy. She is truly inspirational."

He also has a 16-year-old daughter called Lauren. Emmy, who is home schooled, took up the art at aged five and also plays the piano and is interested in dancing.

"I'm really proud to be representing England again this year, it's been my dream to go to Japan and compete."

Around 25 pupils attend the sessions. More details are on [www.sakurakarateacademy.co.uk](http://www.sakurakarateacademy.co.uk)

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# Shopping chiefs look for better year ahead

THE future of a Black Country shopping centre is still bright despite the impending loss of a leading retailer, bosses have said.

While Argos is to leave the Saddlers Shopping Centre in Walsall next month, owner Topland said jewellers F Hinds is due to open along with the Walk-in Health Centre and there are also plans to create a food court to boost trade.

by Craig Hughes

Owners say they are in talks with major retailers about taking over the Argos space. Bodycare has also taken up space in the centre while Blue Ince and Costa are also based in the shopping mall.

Steve Pope, group director, said: "The centre's void rate in the scheme is five per cent compared to the town at 30 per cent and we have completed 52 individual transactions since acquisition in February, 2013.

He said: "We are surprised that Argos are moving out of the scheme as a lot of customers shop in Argos because of the proximity of the Bradford Street bus station.

"We believe the introduction of our new Food Zone and increasing the amount of local services available in the centre with the CCG Walk-in-Centre will more than replace this store. Topland are already in dis-

cussion with a number of major retailers to take over the Argos store and provide an improved retail offer in this part of the scheme." He added: "We will continue to focus on this loyal customer base and offer convenient shopping with reasonably priced, secure, good parking for our customers."

It was announced last month that Argos will be opening its first digital store in the Midlands at the Crown Wharf retail park, opposite the Walsall Waterfront, in February. Tablets will replace traditional catalogues and paper forms at the planned store in Wolverhampton Street.

An Argos spokesman said: "The digital store will have a fresh and contemporary look, where tables of tablets will replace Argos' traditional laminated catalogues, paper slips and pencils."

## Town pays tribute to Sister Dora



Sister Dora, Walsall's nursing heroine, who will be remembered at a special service on Sunday

WALSALL'S nursing heroine Sister Dora will be remembered at a special service in the town. The thanksgiving service will be held for the much-loved historic figure on Sunday, to commemorate her life and work.

Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall, Councillor Pete Smith and his niece Laura Barnes, will attend the service at St Paul's Church at The Crossing, at 11am.

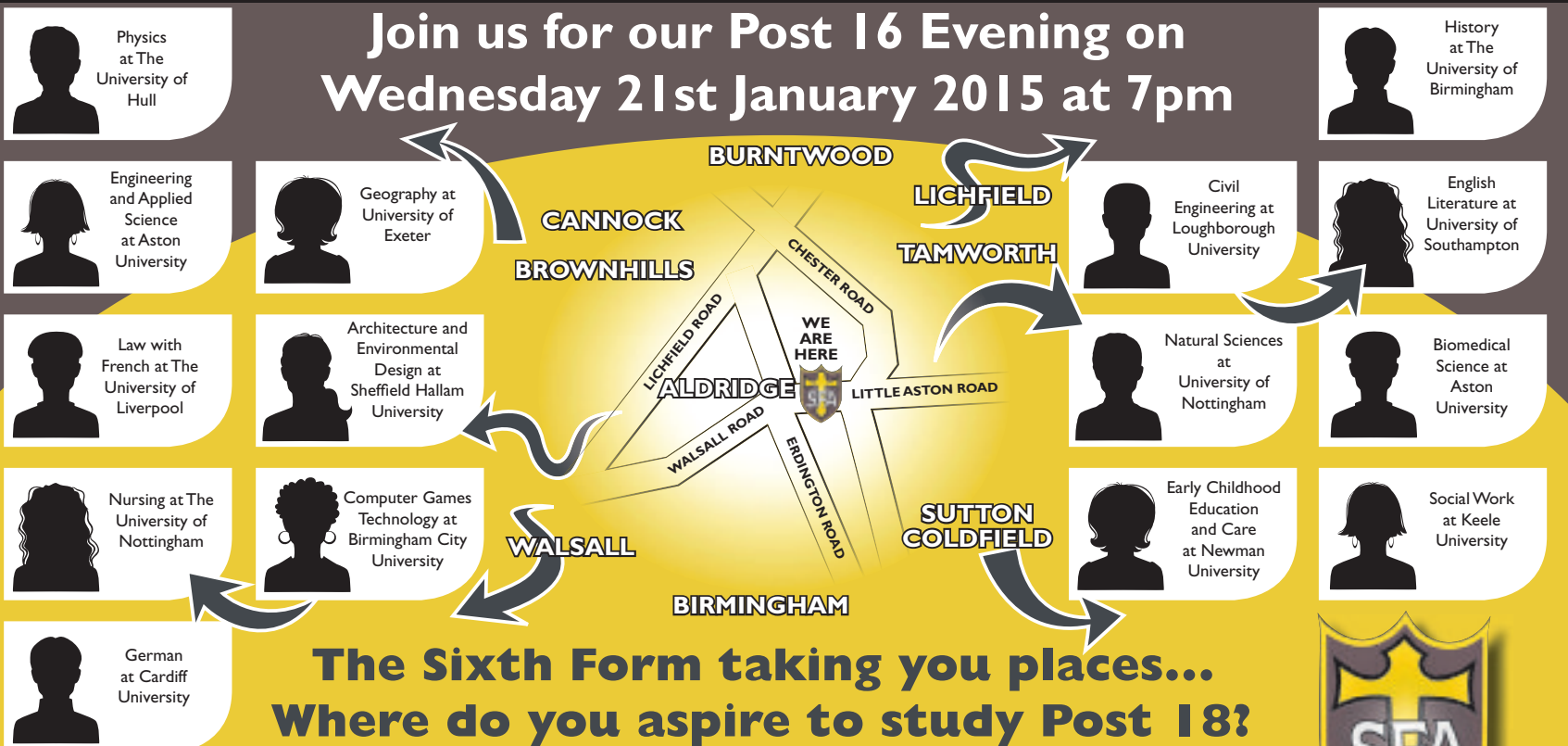
Afterwards the congregation will leave St Paul's at 11.50am for a short procession to the Sister Dora statue on The Bridge for the laying of floral tributes.

Members of the public are welcome to attend. Refreshments will follow at The Crossing. Born Dorothy Wyndlow Pattison, Sister Dora was born in Yorkshire on January 16, 1832 and arrived in Walsall on January 8, 1865 to work at Walsall's first tiny hospital in Bridge Street.

In 1875, the area was hit by smallpox and a dedicated epidemic hospital was set up in Hospital Street, Birchills, where she cared for poorly residents for six months, putting her own life at risk. She died on Christmas Eve in 1878, aged 46, from breast cancer.

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# Happy family as heart-op Sebastian is back home

TO say the last three years have been a struggle for the Garrett family is an understatement.

When Sebastian was born in 2011, parents Stuart and Jenny were over the moon to welcome their second child into the world.

But things took a turn for the worst when he was only six-weeks-old – during a routine check, a heart murmur was detected.

Doctors soon diagnosed him with a severe heart condition and since then he has had to undergo three major operations and now only has half a heart.

But the youngster is all smiles after making a full recovery from surgery and returning home to his family in Cheslyn Hay and was returning to play school this week.

Mr Garrett said: "It has been a tough three years. Sebastian went in for a routine check at six weeks and doctors picked up a heart murmur. We were allowed that day to go home, but things took a turn for the worst overnight and we had to take him into Stafford Hospital."

"He wasn't feeding properly and was breathless. He was connected up to an oxygen machine and had very low levels in his blood. He was struggling for oxygen. We took him into Birmingham Children's Hospital and he was diagnosed with a severe heart condition."

At seven weeks Sebastian underwent a heart operation and at 13 months had his first open heart surgery at Birmingham Children's Hospital. In November last year he underwent his third procedure and returned home just in time for Christmas.

Mr Garrett continued: "Sebastian now has what they call a handmade heart. Only two chambers of his heart work instead of four. Essentially he's only got half a heart. The staff at Birmingham Children's Hospital were



Seb Garrett, aged three, with sister Livia Rose, four, and parents Stuart and

fantastic. The nurses there and the surgeons are so good at what they do.

"There is no better place to take your child than there."

Since the operation, Sebastian has to take anticoagulant drug Warfarin every day as his blood is three times thinner than a healthy child. The youngster also has to have regular weekly hospital checks.

But Mr Garrett, who is a business development executive, added: "Sebastian looks like a normal, healthy child – you wouldn't know he only has half a heart just by looking at him."

"It's great that he's going back to play school next week. There are risks though. If say he fell and banged his head, he could have internal bleeding

and as his blood is a lot thinner than it should be, it is harder for it to clot. Doctors have said in the years to come he'll need a heart transplant, but we'll face that decision when it comes."

Mr Garrett added he and his wife Jenny, 29, a full-time mother and their daughter Livia-Rose, four, were delighted to have Sebastian back home.

Mr Garrett said: "Sebastian can't run like other children. He gets very breathless, but he gives it a go."

Birmingham Children's Hospital provides the widest range of children's health services for young patients, with more than 257,000 patient visits recorded every year. Sebastian is one of only eight children in the Walsall and Cannock area to be on Warfarin.

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Mature environment – the large open plan common room



Shire Oak principals with the head boys and girls



Building confidence as part of a residential course in rural Llangollen

# Preparing for a successful year

**THE last seven years have seen the transformation of the sixth form at Shire Oak Academy in Walsall.**

From an average point score of 574 in 2008, the last four years have seen students achieving consistently over 850.

Through a combination of rigorous monitoring, high standards of care, an excellent curriculum and staff with a real passion for learning, the academy continues to push itself to the forefront of post-16 education.

The governing body has been keen to support the drive in post-16 standards, investing heavily in the facilities and support structure. The sixth form proudly boasts an outstanding,

modern learning environment with a wide range of facilities to help students to reach their potential.

With the opening last year of a new sixth form suite along with a dedicated study block and large open plan common room in the Mercia Building, students can enjoy dedicated facilities, including an ICT suite, toilets, work areas, classroom, offices and enough space for more than 250 students to socialise and relax between study.

The recent Ofsted inspection reported: "The sixth form is good. It is well led, and students benefit from good teaching and achieve well."

The inspectors also commented that "Students are given good support and guidance

and are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and for future employment."

The success of Shire Oak Academy sixth form can be measured not only by the results the students have achieved over the last four years, nor by the number that go onto universities or apprenticeships, but by the fond memories with which they leave the sixth form.

## Enrichment

In October the sixth form made their annual journey to the Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre for a residential course as part of the academy's curriculum enrichment programme.

Considerable emphasis was placed on social skills and living in a small community.

Students made the journey to Wales for the weekend where 24 threw themselves into the activities. On Friday night blindfolded students brave the nightline obstacle course, working together as a group, to navigate their way around.

Saturday started with team building exercises before donning wetsuits and heading for a local gorge.

Despite the cold water, the group battled their way up the gorge, completing activities along the way, before finishing off with a 6ft leap into a plunge pool.

The final day's activity saw the group on the water mastering their paddling skills in kayaks and canoes, playing games and trying to stay in the vessels.

The students were certainly tested to their limits, made new friends and all felt very proud of their achievements.

The academy was proud to hold its annual Key Stage 4 and sixth form awards night at Bescot stadium which was hosted by head boy, Matthew Coldicott and head girl, Emily Hall and with special guest Mr Andrew Roberts, a member of the Invictus games team.

Many guests were welcomed back who left last year and celebrated the success of students with their outstanding GCSE and GCE grades.

With so many students achieving top grades it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their achievements and the effort that went into them.



## Sixth Form Open Evening Wednesday 21st January 2015



At Shire Oak Academy Sixth Form we can offer you:

**High academic standards and wide ranging enrichment opportunities**

**A choice of 20 A-Level and 9 BTEC national award courses**

**Proven record of academic success**

**Outstanding modern learning environment**

**An excellent educational experience**

If you would like to see what Shire Oak Academy Sixth Form could offer you, a programme of activities will run from 6.15pm until 9.00pm. A presentation by the Principal and the Director of Sixth Form Studies will be made at 6.15pm and 6.45pm to outline the curriculum and other opportunities. Visitors should attend one of these presentations and during the evening there will be the opportunity to meet subject specialists and students.

For more information on the Sixth Form please contact Mr N. Critchley, Assistant Principal/Director of Sixth Form Studies.

## Turning potential into excellence

[www.shireoakacademy.co.uk](http://www.shireoakacademy.co.uk)

Shire Oak Academy, Lichfield Road, Walsall, WS9 9PA  
Tel. 01543 452518  
Email. [postbox@shireoakacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@shireoakacademy.co.uk)



# Buildings taking shape for Jhoots and college

THEY are costing millions of pounds to build and will transform the face of Walsall for decades to come.

Work on a new college campus and pharmacy headquarters are gathering pace just a stone's throw away from each other.

The outline shapes of both buildings are now in place with the steel girders shooting up from the sites in Littleton Street.

The skyline around the Gigaport corridor in the town centre is changing as regeneration plans forge ahead. The development of both schemes has been gathering ahead at pace.

Work on the £11m business and sports hub for Walsall College started in the summer and is due to be completed for September. It is sitting next to the main Wisemore campus and will have a modern appearance along with latest facilities.

It is to include a business incubation centre for start-up companies, sports hall with badminton courts to Sport England standards, dance and fitness studios, sports training and injury clinic and a fine-dining restaurant.

Next door, work is also well under way on the building of the £3.2m base of Jhoots Pharmacy at the junction of Hatherton Street. Construction of the 20,000 sq ft office started in August and the complex will create 30 jobs.

Cannock-based developer Jessups is leading the project with the four-storey building expected to be completed in the summer.

It comes as regeneration has already been taking place in that area of the town, with the Walsall Housing Group office and Tesco having opened.

A Vue cinema and restaurants are being created next to the superstore in a further £12m scheme with forms part of the planned Gigaport business corridor.



A view of the finished Jhoots HQ



An impression of the finished campus



The Jhoots Pharmacy building



College campus work in progress

## Sunglasses and gadgets go

A CAR owner is counting the cost after his designer sunglasses and gadgets worth a total of £600 were stolen from his Audi parked outside his Walsall home.

Jonathan Hope, aged 32, discovered the door ajar and items including a pair of £300 Prada shades, an iPod, a satellite navigation system and two jackets missing. There was no sign of damage to the motor. He said the vehicle had been locked up overnight at the property on off Western Avenue, in Bentley. I found a strange key fob on the floor in the car afterwards. I'm worried that my own fob was cloned by someone who's then come along and broken into my car."

West Midlands Police said the theft which happened sometime between 1.30am and 10am on Sunday, January 4 had been reported.

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'Supportive, caring sixth form staff. Well done' (Parent)

'We are very pleased with Queen Mary's High School our daughter is very happy and enjoys the school.' (Parent)

'Excellent pastoral care' (Parent)

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For further details, including entry requirements, see [www.qmhs.org.uk](http://www.qmhs.org.uk) or contact Mrs D. Wright, Queen Mary's High School, Upper Foster Street, Walsall, WS4 2AE. Tel: 01922 721013 Email: [d.wright@qmhs.org.uk](mailto:d.wright@qmhs.org.uk) CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 6th FEBRUARY 2015

# entertainment CANNOCK CHASE January – March 2015

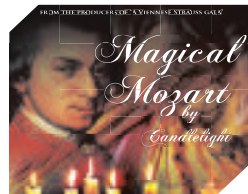
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Thursday 12th February  
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## THE EVERLY BROTHERS & FRIENDS TRIBUTE

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7.30pm • £15



## DUBLIN LEGENDS

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OUR DAY OUT

JOE MCELDERRY

THE BILLY FURY YEARS



## CHOICE



Warwick Davis

**Planet's Got Talent (ITV, 6.30pm)**

When Paul O'Grady hosted the pilot for what would become Britain's Got Talent, UK TV bosses weren't impressed, so Simon Cowell hotfooted it to the US and sold the Opportunity Knocks-style format with far more ease. Alas, Paul fell out with ITV, so Ant and Dec took over, and before long, Britain's Got Talent became one of Blighty's best loved shows. Then the rest of the world seemed to follow suit with their own versions of the glitzy talent show. Now, narrator Warwick Davis and a team have compiled a best of show. The first of the series features a dog that can do back flips on America's Got Talent; amazing Russian acrobats; an apple-hating Korean woman, and (Warwick's favourite), a man in India who can stuff 200 straws into his mouth at once.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** BBC News. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the opening semi-final from Alexandra Palace. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

**6.10 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

**6.30 Now You See It.** Mel Giedroyc narrates the best and worst of the magic world, featuring Dynamo and a car with an invisible driver, and a man taking his legs for a walk, plus tricks going wrong.

**7.00 The Voice UK.** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes from the second round of the competition to find the nation's best new vocal talent. Coaches Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson and Rita Ora sit with their backs to the audience, hitting their buttons to spin their chair if they want to mentor that singer – and allowing the hopeful to choose whose team they want to join if more than one coach turns. Their aim is to build a team of 12 acts each and they'll use every trick in the book to attract the ones they want. Hopefuls include Yorkshire lass Jade Hewitt, 19-year-old identical twins Classical Reflection from Peterborough, and Billy Bottle and Martine, a hippy couple from Devon.

**8.25 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants answer questions to try to win each other's dream prizes. Including the lottery draws, with Gabby Roslin.

**9.15 Casualty.** Robyn tries to help a family who cannot feed their children. Ethan treats a hallucinating patient and Connie prepares for a showdown in court with Hailey Blake.

**10.05 BBC News:** Weather.

**10.25 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Swansea City v Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.

**11.50 The Football League Show.** **1.10** Film: Phantoms. (1998) **2.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.45** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.10 Animal Park.** (R) **6.40 Film:** Skyrunners. (2009) A teenager gains superpowers after finding a UFO but is kidnapped by aliens, leaving his brother to come to the rescue. Sci-fi adventure, starring Joey Pollari and Kelly Blatz. **8.10 Film:** Henry VIII and His Six Wives. (1972) The Tudor monarch looks back on his reign as he lies on his deathbed, and recalls the six women he made his queen. Historical drama, starring Keith Michell and Donald Pleasence. **10.10** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) **10.40** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) **11.10** British Isles: A Natural History. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.45** Sean Connery: Talking Pictures. **1.35** Film: The Wind and the Lion. (1975) An American woman and her son are kidnapped by a Moroccan chieftain in the 1900s, but come to sympathise with his cause.

Period adventure, starring Sean Connery and Candice Bergen. Edited for daytime broadcast. **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The Masters. The concluding frames of the opening semi-final from Alexandra Palace. **5.30** Flog It! **6.30** Dad's Army. A land mine cuts off all power and communications services in Walmington-on-Sea, but Captain Mainwaring rises to the challenge by declaring martial law – while Pike gets stuck on some iron railings. Vintage comedy first broadcast in 1974, starring Arthur Lowe and Ian Lavender. (R)

**7.00 Live Snooker: The Masters.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the second semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the line-up for the final will be confirmed over the best of 11 frames. Ronnie O'Sullivan prevailed against Stephen Maguire with a 6-2 victory in last year's concluding semi-final, earning him a chance to claim the title in a contest against Mark Selby. With commentary by Dennis Taylor, Ken Doherty, Stephen Hendry, John Virgo, Steve Davis and John Parrott.

**10.30 Film: All Good Things.** (2010) Premiere. The heir of a wealthy family marries a medical student, but becomes a suspect when she disappears without trace. Crime drama, starring Ryan Gosling and Kirsten Dunst.

**12.05** Snooker Extra. Hazel Irvine presents extended highlights of the opening semi-final of the Masters at Alexandra Palace in London. **2.05** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** Roar. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Ejector Seat. (R) **12.30** Britain's Best Back Gardens. (R) **1.30** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **2.35** Film: The Secret of My Success. (1987) Comedy, starring Michael J Fox. **4.35** Off Their Rockers. (R) **5.05** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.15** ITV News: Weather. **5.30** You've Been Framed! Best of the Best. (R)

**6.30 Planet's Got Talent.** New series. The best and worst clips from the global Got Talent franchise, examining how contestants across the world have fared in front of the judges. Narrated by Warwick Davis.

**7.00 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes.** A phone retail manager, a holiday singer, a nurse, a learning administrator and a delivery driver are transformed into their favourite singers as they vie for a place in the final.

**8.05 Take Me Out.** Graphic designer Matt, Team GB taekwondo champion Andrew, car salesman Jamie and window cleaner Ross vie for the attentions of 30 single women.

**9.20 Film: Bridget Jones's Diary.** (2001) A single woman begins a new year with resolutions to find love, quit her bad habits and take a step up the career ladder. Her plans crumble as she tries to deal with her mother's infidelity, get over a passionate fling with her boss and come to terms with her feelings for an uptight lawyer. Romantic comedy based on Helen Fielding's novel, starring Renee Zellweger and Colin Firth.

**11.10** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Film: Always. (1989) The ghost of a pilot is unable to rest until he helps his girlfriend learn to move on with her life. Steven Spielberg's romantic fantasy, starring Richard Dreyfuss and Holly Hunter.

**1.35** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV News: Weather.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** Snowdonia Marathon 2014. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** The King of Queens. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** Speed with Guy Martin. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot and Haydock Park. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** The Simpsons. (R) **5.30** The Simpsons. (R)

**6.00 Channel 4 News.** **6.30** The Restoration Man. George Clarke heads to Essex to observe the work of Jim and Be Goody as they transform a derelict Victorian school into their dream property. (R)

**7.30 The World's Best Diet.** Food Unwrapped presents Jimmy Doherty and Kate Quilton travel the globe examining the eating habits of a variety of countries, tribes and communities, revealing how dietary tendencies have changed radically since the 1960s. Experts help them rank 50 of the world's diets, from worst to best, as they explore the differences and surprising similarities between what people, thousands of miles apart, consume. Will their discoveries offer an insight into how individuals can improve their health and quality of life? (R)

**9.00 Film: The Sweeney.** (2012) Premiere. An insubordinate detective and his loyal partner set out to stop a series of robberies across London. While they try to bring the criminals to justice, they come under investigation themselves as their unorthodox methods are met with disapproval from their superiors. Crime thriller based on the 1970s TV series, with Ray Winstone, Ben Drew, Damian Lewis and Hayley Atwell.

**11.15 Greg Davies: The Back of My Mum's Head.** Stand-up comedy with the Man Down star, from the Lowry in Salford. Greg embarks on a petty quest to find out whether anyone is normal, after his mother remarked that he is not.

**12.15** Film: The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad! (1988) **1.50** 50 Years of Rock Excess – Amps, Whips and Rebel Riffs. (R) **2.50** Holyoaks. (R) **5.00** SuperScribbles. (R) **5.50** NFL: Rush Zone.

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Monkey Life. (R) **11.10** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.10** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.10** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **2.05** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **3.00** Film: Columbo: Try and Catch Me. (1977) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **4.35** Film: Columbo: Death Hits the Jackpot. (1991) Detective drama, with Peter Falk and Rip Torn.

**6.25 The NCIS Movie: War on Terror.** Feature-length episode. A military aircraft transporting the bodies of US marines back home crashes before reaching its destination, and Gibbs and the team are called in to help identify human remains at the site of the wreckage. However, a DNA discrepancy turns a routine investigation into a search for a missing person. Crime drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R)

**8.00 CSI: Last Days of Jim Brass.** A 25-year-old mystery involving the theft of cash and the death of one of the robbers from a gunshot wound is rekindled when officers discover the bullet-riddled body of one of the witnesses in a location remarkably close to where the original incident occurred. As neither the money nor a lion figurine that was also taken that day were ever recovered, locals become convinced of a connection, and a former detective – obsessed by the case – also makes his presence felt.

Elsewhere, Captain Brass handles a personal crisis after his daughter takes an overdose. Treat Williams guest stars, with Ted Danson, Elisabeth Shue and Paul Guilfoyle. Last in the series. (R)

**8.55 5 News Weekend.** **9.00** Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous residents' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to their housemates' quirks and foibles while also coping with the day-to-day complications of life inside the house.

**10.00 Film: Bad Boys.** (1995) Two detectives are forced to swap identities as they hunt for a heroin consignment stolen by a drug kingpin. Michael Bay's action thriller, starring Will Smith.

**12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

## BBC Three

**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You. **8.00** Top Gear. **9.00** Film: Armageddon (1998) **11.25** Family Guy. **2.00** Crims. **2.30** The Revolution Will Be Televised. **4.00** Close

## BBC Four

**7.00** Lost Land of the Volcano. **8.00** Everyday Miracles: The Genius of Sofas, Stockings and Scanners. **9.00** Spiral. **10.50** Blonde's New York and the Making of Parallel Lines. **11.40** Blonde @ Glastonbury. **12.35** Synth Britannia. **2.05** Lost Land of the Volcano. **3.05** Blonde's New York and the Making of Parallel Lines. **3.55** Close

## ITV2

**11.05** The Cube: Celebrity Special. **12.05** You've Been Framed! **1.05** Totally You've Been Framed! **2.10** ITV: Valiant (2005) **3.50** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **5.45** Film: King Kong (2005) **9.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip. **10.05** Blue Go Mad in Ibiza. **11.05** Film: Harold & Kumar Get the Munchies (2004) **12.55** Mom. **1.45** Dads. **2.10** Fake Reaction. **2.45** Teleshopping. **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

## ITV3

**11.05** Inspector Morse. **1.15** A Touch of Frost. **3.15** Agatha Christie's Marple. **5.20** Rosemary & Thyme. **7.00** Doc Martin. **8.00** Midsomer Murders. **10.00** Lewis. **12.05** A Touch of Frost. **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen. **2.30** Teleshopping

## ITV4

**11.45** Pawn Stars. **1.35** Storage Wars. **2.30** Storage Wars: Texas. **3.30** Film: Destryst (1954) **5.25** Film: Red River (1948) **8.10** Film: Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991) **11.00** Africa Cup of Nations Highlights. **11.00** Film: Apocalypse Now (1979) **1.55** The Motorbike Show. **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen. **3.00** Teleshopping. **3.30** The Store. **5.40** Close

**Walsall Academy** is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for **Sixth Form** September 2015



An Information Evening will be held on **Thursday 29th January at 7.00pm**



For more information contact us for an application pack or visit [www.walsallacademy.com](http://www.walsallacademy.com) or scan the QR Code on your mobile phone



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## CHOICE



Helen George

**Call the Midwife (BBC1, 8pm)**

New series. The nuns and midwives of Nonnatus House return, with new nurse Barbara, who is anxious to prove herself – only to get off on the wrong foot after a late-night drinks party. A family of severely neglected children is discovered, so Trixie strives to restore their health and bring happiness into their lives, leaving Tom filled with admiration for the woman he loves, while Sister Evangeline finally undergoes tests for her abdominal pains. Shelagh finds she is at the surgery almost as much as she is at home, so the Turners come up with a solution which, for 1960, proves somewhat groundbreaking. Jenny Agutter, Pam Ferris, Miranda Hart, Judy Parfitt and Helen George star.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Rio II. (R) **2.40** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.25** Lifetime. **3.35** Songs of Praise. **4.10** Film: Shrek the Third. (2007) Animated sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. **5.35** Celebrity Mastermind.

**6.05** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

**6.30** **Countryfile**. The team pays a visit to Keswick in the Lake District, where Matt Baker finds out about a charity that is helping wheelchair users to experience the thrill of abseiling through the use of a frame originally designed for mountain rescues. Ellie Harrison climbs Helvellyn mountain to predict the weather with hilltop assessors and finds out about early tourism in the Lakes, and Sanjida O'Connell is on the banks of Conistow Water, where she tries her hand at the Cumbrian craft of oak swill basket-making. Adam Henson travels to Wales to discover the secret of White Park Cattle's origins and Tom Heap investigates how easy it is to get good healthcare in isolated parts of the countryside. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**7.30** **Still Open All Hours**. Granville buys too much stock and needs to come up with a way of getting rid of it all, while Eric is having a few marital problems and asks Leroy for a few tips on wooing his wife.

**8.00** **Call the Midwife**. New series. Trixie helps a family of neglected children, new nurse Barbara gets off on the wrong foot and Sister Evangeline finally undergoes tests for her abdominal pains.

**9.00** **Last Tango in Halifax**. Caroline is overwhelmed at the prospect of looking after the new baby, until a stranger comes to her rescue.

**10.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

**10.30** **Match of the Day 2**. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium and West Ham United v Hull City at Upton Park.

**11.25** **The Apprentice USA**.

**12.50** Weather for the Week Ahead.

**12.55** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.15** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Food & Drink. (R) **12.20** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.50** Live Snooker: The Masters. The opening eight frames of the final from Alexandra Palace. **5.15** Ski Sunday.

**6.00** **The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve**.

In the first of two This World documentaries examining the stories behind the nation's favourite beverages, adventurer and broadcaster Simon Reeve looks at the production of tea. He begins in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa, where most of the leaves for teabags are bought at auction, before travelling through eastern Africa to meet some of the millions of people who pick, pack and transport it. He drinks tea with everyone from Maasai cattle herders to the descendants of the original plantation owners, and hears claims of low wages and child labour. (R)

**7.00** **Live Snooker: The Masters**. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the final from Alexandra Palace, London, where a maximum of 11 frames will be played to decide this year's champion. Ronnie O'Sullivan claimed his fifth Masters title with a 10-4 victory over Mark Selby in 2014, winning four frames to the Jester from Leicester's two in the second session. With commentary by Dennis Taylor, Ken Doherty, Stephen Hendry, John Virgo, Steve Davis and John Parrott. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**11.00** **Film: Last Orders**. (2001) Four men visit Margate to scatter a friend's ashes and reminisce about their shared experiences over the last six decades. Drama, with Michael Caine, Bob Hoskins and Tom Courtenay.

**12.45** **Sign Zone: Countryfile**. People and places hit by the 2014 floods in Somerset, meeting the farmer whose livelihood ended up underwater and finding out how it affected the local birdlife. (R) **1.40** **Holby City**. Jonny is distraught when Jac considers a new start in the USA with Emma. Sacha's daughter Rachel is brought in, while Mary-Clare and Harry try to hold back their mutual attraction. (R) **2.40** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITY: Bottom Knockers Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled! Nerdz & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled! Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled! Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled! Deadline Stories. (R) **9.25** ITV News.

**9.30** **Film: Columbo: Any Old Port In a Storm**. (1973) **11.25** ITV News. **11.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.30** Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. (R) **1.30** River Monsters. (R) **2.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.00** **Film: Live and Let Die**. (1973) Adventure, starring Roger Moore.

**6.20** **Regional Programme**; Weather.

**6.30** **ITV News**; Weather.

**6.45** **Get Your Act Together**. New series. Well-known faces are paired with leading variety acts to master a chosen talent, before competing on stage for a place in the final. Stephen Mulhern hosts.

**8.00** **Foyle's War**. When his colleague Hilda Pierce is targeted by an assassin outside M15, Foyle must re-examine her top-secret role during the war. He suspects the shooting could be connected to the hunt for a traitor within the Special Operations Executive who may have been behind the deaths of nine agents in France. Meanwhile, Sam is faced with a dilemma when Adam and Glenvil crack down on the black market in East Peckham.

**10.00** **ITV News**; Weather.

**10.15** **Perspectives: Warwick Davis – The Seven Dwarfs of Auschwitz**. The actor tells the story of a Jewish family of travelling musicians who survived Josef Mengele's hideous experiments at the Nazi concentration camp during the Second World War. (R)

**11.15** **The Undrivable**. A designer who struggles to control her road rage and an executive PA prone to panicking in heavy traffic try to pass their driving tests with the help of leading instructors. (R)

**11.45** **The Chase**. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)

**12.35** **The Store**. **2.20** **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA**. (R) **3.05** **ITV Nightscreen**. **5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show**. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** Challenge Bahrain. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** **Film: Mighty Joe Young**. (1998) **5.40** Channel 4 News.

**6.05** **A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun**. Laura Hamilton meets a London couple who want a holiday home in Mojacar, southern Spain, showing them a townhouse with stunning views for £25,000 less than their budget.

**7.00** **Phil Spencer: Secret Agent**. In the East Midlands, Jim and Jenny are desperate to sell so they can move closer to work, but their home has already been on the market four months, and when Phil Spencer arrives, he encounters a house with missing floors, a dated bathroom and toys scattered everywhere. Meanwhile, Gwyneth and her daughters are under pressure to sell before someone else snaps up their dream property, but with six cats and neglected decor, buyers are not exactly forming a queue.

**8.00** **The Hotel**. Mark goes all out to impress a three-time Olympic gold medalist staying at the hotel, and focuses on improving customer service – but acerbic head waiter Paul presents a challenge.

**9.00** **Walking the Nile**. Levison Wood faces a 1,300-mile walk across the Sahara with three badly behaved camels, before tackling his toughest physical challenge – crossing the Bayuda volcanic field.

**10.00** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown**. Ten captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson are joined by Jack Whitehall and Roisin Conaty, while Rob Beckett is in Dictionary Corner with Sue Dent. (R)

**11.05** **Film: The Pact**. (2012) Premiere. A woman returns to her family home after her mother's death to find her sister has disappeared and the house may be haunted. Horror, with Caitly Lotz.

**12.50** **The Last Leg**. (R) **1.45** **Film: Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives**. (2010) **3.35** **Kirstie's Best of Both Worlds**. (R) **4.30** **River Cottage Bites**. (R) **4.40** **SuperScrimpers**. (R) **5.35** **Face the Clock**. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. **7.05** Mio Mao. (R) **7.10** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. **8.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.40** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. (R) **10.40** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **11.35** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.35** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.35** **Film: Her Husband's Betrayal**. (2013) Thriller, starring Jacqueline MacInnes Wood. **3.20** **Film: The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill, But Came Down a Mountain**. (1995) Comedy drama, starring Hugh Grant. **5.15** **Film: Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (2009) Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker.

**7.05** **Film: My Super Ex-Girlfriend**. (2006) Ordinary New Yorker Matt starts dating a woman he meets on the subway, unaware she is the superhero G-Girl. When he breaks up with the insecure crimefighter, she is outraged and uses her superpowers to make his life a misery. Meanwhile, her arch-enemy sees Matt as a potentially ally in defeating G-Girl once and for all. Fantasy comedy, starring Uma Thurman, Luke Wilson and Eddie Izzard. Edited for language and sexual content.

**8.55** **5 News Weekend**.

**9.00** **Celebrity Big Brother**. A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room.

**10.00** **Film: Gone**. (2012) Premiere. A woman who was once kidnapped finds her sister has disappeared, and fears the man who abducted her has struck again. Thriller, with Amanda Seyfried and Daniel Sunjata.

**12.00** **He Left Me for My Mother and Other Betrayals**. (R) **12.55** **SuperCasino**. **3.10** **Benefit House: Me & My 26 Kids**. (R) **4.00** **House Doctor**. (R) **4.25** **Make It Big**. (R) **5.15** **Angels of Jarn**. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** **Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel**  
**7.05** **Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes** **7.35** **The Voice UK** **9.00** **Backchat** with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **9.30** **Russell Howard's Good News** **10.00** **Family Guy** **10.45** **Crimms** **11.15** **Family Guy** **12.00** **Backchat** with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **12.30** **Russell Howard's Good News** **1.00** **Crimms** **1.30** **Siblings** **3.00** **Who Needs Ibiza?** **7.00** **The Great British Holiday** **4.00** **Close**

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** **Tales from the Royal Bedchamber** **8.00** **Queen Victoria's Letters: A Monarch Unveiled** **9.00** **The Joy of Mozart** **10.00** **Poet on the Frontline** **11.00** **BBC Four Sessions – The Great American Songbook** **12.00** **Sound of Song** **1.00** **Sings the Great American Songbook** **2.00** **Blues at the BBC** **3.00** **The Joy of Mozart** **4.00** **Close**

**ITV2**  
**11.45** **Take Me Out** **1.00** **Take Me Out – The Gossip** **1.45** **You've Been Framed!** **3.20** **Film: Homebound Bound: The Incredible Journey** (1993) **5.05** **Film: Nanny McPhee** (2009) **5.05** **Film: Jurassic Park III** (2001) **7.15** **Film: The Dark Knight** (2008) **12.05** **Film: Billy Madison** (1995) **1.45** **Morn**

**ITV3**  
**11.20** **Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four** **1.40** **Film: The Belles of St Trinian's** (1954) **3.35** **Inspector Morse** **5.55** **Lewis** **8.00** **The Zoo** **9.00** **It'll Be Alright on the Night** **10.00** **Northern Lights** **11.00** **Film: The Count of Monte Cristo** (2002) **1.35** **Judge Judy** **2.15** **Countrywise** **3.10** **ITV3 Nightscreen**

**ITV4**  
**12.10** **Counting Cars** **1.05** **Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg** (1967) **3.25** **Africa Cup of Nations Highlights** **4.25** **Film: Battle of the Bulge** (1965) **7.40** **Film: Driven** (2001) **10.00** **Africa Cup of Nations Highlights** **11.00** **Film: We Were Soldiers** (2002) **1.40** **Hell on Wheels** **2.25** **Nitro Circus** **2.50** **ITV4 Nightscreen** **3.00** **Teleshopping**

**E4**  
**12.30** **Revenge** **1.30** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD** **2.30** **The 100** **3.30** **The Big Bang Theory** **5.30** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **6.00** **Marry Me** **6.30** **The Big Bang Theory** **8.00** **Film: Transformers** (2007) **10.50** **The Big Bang Theory** **11.20** **The Inbetweeners** **12.20** **Rude Tube** **1.25** **The Cleveland Show** **2.45** **Rules of Engagement** **3.30** **Hollyoaks**

**Film4**  
**11.00** **The Mark of Zorro** (1940) **1.00** **Big Fish** (2003) **3.25** **Carry On Dick** (1974) **5.10** **The Three Musketeers** (1993) **7.15** **Airplane II: The Sequel** (1982) **9.00** **Van Helsing** (2004) **11.40** **The Rum Diary** (2011) **2.00** **Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny** (2006) **4.00** **Close**

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**MONDAY**  
**A Simple Plan, BBC1, 12.20am**  
Two brothers and a friend stumble on a fortune in unmarked small dollar bills in the wreckage of a plane and decide to squirrel it away for themselves. However, the strain of keeping the cache secret takes its toll as guilt, paranoia and greed change their relationship for ever. Sam Raimi's psychological thriller, starring Bill Paxton, Billy Bob Thornton and Gary Cole. (1998)

**TUESDAY**  
**The Kite Runner, BBC1, 11.35pm**  
The friendship between two boys growing up in Afghanistan – wealthy Amir and Hassan, the son of a servant – is shattered, seemingly for ever, when Amir fails to protect Hassan from a brutal attack and later drives him away to conceal his shame. After years living in exile as a writer in America, an adult Amir returns to his home country to atone for his childhood sins by finding his friend's missing son. Drama, starring Khalid Abdalla and Atossa Leoni. (2007)



Knocked Up, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**The Ring, BBC1, 12am**  
A journalist investigates several teenage deaths, which are linked to a cursed videotape and the rumour that anyone who watches it will die a week later. Her growing obsession with the tape endangers herself and her family – and to avoid the predicted fate, she has just seven days to find out where the recording came from. Gore Verbinski's remake of the Japanese supernatural horror, starring Naomi Watts and Brian Cox. (2002)

**THURSDAY**  
**Out of Reach, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A woman faces having her family torn apart when her husband enters into a business arrangement with two lifestyle coaches, only to end up joining their cult of followers. She struggles to get him away from their influence, but the conflict grows more serious when the sect tries to gain custody of her daughter. Thriller, starring Erin Karpluk and Lochlyn Munro. (2013)

**FRIDAY**  
**Knocked Up, ITV, 10.40pm**  
Ambitious journalist Alison's one-night stand with directionless layabout Ben has unexpected consequences when she discovers she is pregnant. However, the unlikely parents decide to give the relationship a try for their baby's sake. Romantic comedy, starring Seth Rogen and Katherine Heigl. (2007)



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An Express & Star supplement

PICK OF THE WEEK

Historical series hopes to be a novel success

Despite the best efforts of Jonathan Rhys Meyers in The Tudors and Eric Bana in The Other Boleyn Girl, it seems Henry VIII still has a very unglamorous image.

Or as Damian Lewis puts it: "I think we all have this understanding that he was this worshipping, syphilitic, bloated, genocidal Elvis character."

However, in new drama series Wolf Hall, adapted from Hilary Mantel's two Booker-prize-winning novels, the actor is hoping we can see beyond the monarch's weight and diseases. It helps that the story is approached from the perspective of Henry's advisor Thomas Cromwell (acclaimed stage actor Mark Rylance).

It's also allowed Lewis to explore another side to the King. "I think what I've found in Henry is that the grandiose, more paranoid, self indulgent, self pitying, cruel Henry emerged in the period after this series..."

"What we're trying to concentrate on a little bit is just to give a more varied portrait of Henry, and that's really how this is written. Henry's not

in it very much but when we see him there's great variety in his character and his personality..."

"We see him at times frightened by the memory of his mother and I think these are little insights that people won't be used to, you know, and yet there are the similar things there, the vanity is still there, the self importance."

So it's little wonder that the former Homeland star has mixed feelings about being able to empathise with his character. "The more I read about him the more I was happy – and alarmed – to find that I did share character traits with him."

"I suppose everyone else will be the judge of it, but certainly sitting in the clothes, it feels like a canny piece of casting, because I do feel, I do find similarities between myself and him."

He adds: "I think there's no question it helps having had the kind of schooling that I've had [at Eton] to play a King. Just the way, the sort of court structure, hierarchies, the way they're set up, it's something I feel I implicitly understand."

We'll be able to see just how convincing Lewis is as the six-part series begins with the monarch desperate to produce a male heir, which means ending his marriage to Katherine of Aragon (Joanne Whalley).

Unfortunately, Cardinal Wolsey (Jonathan Pryce) isn't having much luck in persuading the Pope to annul the union – and if he fails from favour, that will also have a knock-on effect on his protégé, Thomas Cromwell.

When the Cardinal is dismissed as Lord Chancellor, the noble families of England begin jostling for position, keen to become the King's next advisors, but Cromwell is hopeful that the Wolsey will eventually regain Henry's favour.

That could be tricky though, as the Cardinal has made many enemies at court, including one Anne Boleyn (Claire Foy), who still resents him for ending her betrothal to Henry Percy eight years earlier, and could now be in a position to take revenge as the King's rumoured new mistress...



Mark Rylance stars in Wolf Hall, Wednesday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Broadchurch**  
**ITV, 9pm**

The little town with a lorry-load of secrets is certainly back with a bang, and true to form, it's once again dominating all conversations, whether at work, down the pub, or about the house. Writer Chris Chibnall has a lot to answer for – his brilliant work seems to be dominating almost all our waking thoughts. He explains: "In the time we've been off air, we've never stopped working on the show's return. I knew, from the start, that there was another story to tell in the world of Broadchurch: so much so that I'd pitched it to Peter Fincham, Director of Television at ITV, in our very first meeting when he greenlit the first series of the show." Secrecy has shrouded this second series before now, but in tonight's third episode, Hardy faces a race against time as Ellie discovers startling new evidence. But she's got plenty more on her plate than that, as she comes under pressure from all sides, and life for Mark and Beth is about to change forever.

**TUESDAY**  
**The Eichmann Show**  
**BBC2, 9pm**

2014 was the year Martin Freeman became officially ubiquitous, starring in the final Hobbit movie, the third series of Sherlock and the acclaimed TV

drama Fargo. His 2015 is shaping up to be just as momentous as he takes a leading role in this timely drama, which is showing to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Set in Jerusalem in 1961, it follows ground-breaking TV producer Milton Fruchtman (Freeman) as he sets about filming the trial of Adolf Eichmann, one of the architects of the Holocaust. First though, he has to convince the judge that cameras belong in the courtroom, and then train up an inexperienced camera team with the help of director Leo Hurwitz (Anthony LaPaglia) an acclaimed filmmaker who had been blacklisted by McCarthy. However, the pair's persistence pays off when the footage gives victims of the Holocaust the chance to share their horrifying experiences with a global audience.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**The National Television Awards – Live!**  
**ITV, 7.30pm**

The biggest names on the small screen gather at the O2 in London for the annual ceremony celebrating the best of British TV over the past 12 months, as voted for by viewers. Now in its 20th year, the show promises a few surprises, including a cheeky raid by one of the UK's

biggest sitcom stars, while host Dermot O'Leary entertains with a dance routine. Benedict Cumberbatch (Sherlock), Maggie Smith (Downton Abbey), Sarah Lancashire (Happy Valley) and Sheridan Smith (Cilla) battle it out in the Drama Performance category, while star makers Simon Cowell, David Walliams and Cheryl

Fernandez-Versini are up against star baker Mary Berry for best TV Judge. Other closely fought contests include Serial Drama Performance, which sees EastEnders' Danny Dyer and Kellie Bright (Mick and Linda Carter) go head to head, with further competition from Verity Rushworth (Emmerdale's Donna) and Nikki Sanderson (Hollyoaks' Maxine Minner).

**THURSDAY**  
**Cucumber**  
**Channel 4, 9pm**

New series. Sixteen years after the hit Manchester-set series Queer as

Folk appeared on the small screen, Russell T Davies returns with this drama exploring the passions and pitfalls of 21st-century gay life - one of three interlinked shows for Channel 4, E4 and online. When a 46-year-old man and his long-suffering boyfriend embark on a disastrous date night, nothing will ever be the same again. At work, Henry is drawn to the enigmatic Freddie, while Lance greets newcomer Daniel, but both friendships are set on a course to explode.

**FRIDAY**  
**Match of the Day Live**  
**BBC1, 7.30pm**

Cambridge United v Manchester United (Kick-off 7.55pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the opening FA Cup fourth-round match, which takes place at Abbey Stadium between the respective League Two and Premier League outfits. The hosts are the lowest-ranked club left in the draw, and will be delighted with this money-spinning tie against the 11-time champions, who have already negotiated one tricky fixture away to lower-league opposition in the shape of Yeovil Town in round three. The U's squad contains former United midfielder Luke Chadwick and this is the first meeting between the sides since a two-legged League Cup encounter in 1991, which saw the Red Devils held to a 1-1 draw on this ground.



Broadchurch, Monday, ITV, 9pm

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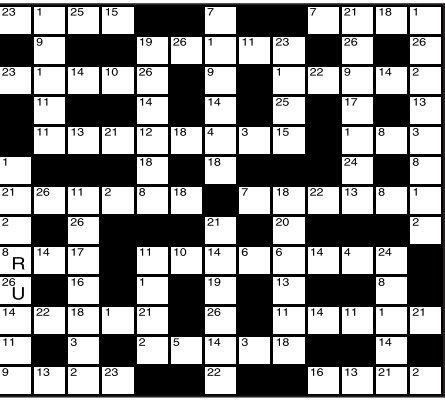
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
E	L	H	R	B	F	P	K	X	G	U	N	V													
C	S	T	O	W	Z	A	M	J	Q	Y	D	I													

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

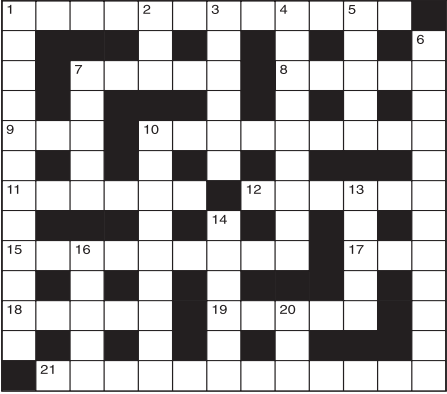
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Sort of gambling common on board ship (5,3,4)
- 7. Urban areas to the West, North and South (5)
- 8. Left in a unit entirely without support? (5)
- 9. Nothing for a teetotaler to swallow! (3)
- 10. If you do, the rest must be easy (5,4)
- 11. Noted printer's errors (6)
- 12. Delay by putting the date in wrongly (6)
- 15. Keep in mind what the host will do (9)
- 17. I follow the Spanish prophet (3)
- 18. Yet one wouldn't pay a high rent for it (5)
- 19. Lowered oneself? (5)
- 21. Hardly descriptive of the time a final demand arrives! (3,6,3)

Down

- 1. Modern container that can be made to go by elephant! (9,3)
- 2. A question of manners (3)
- 3. Made a home for a good man in need (6)
- 4. Show contempt for a vagrant Noel put up (7,2)
- 5. Cut a Pole to the heart (5)
- 6. Having made good progress, what the desert traveller would like to find? (4,2,3,3)
- 7. Don chopped up trout (5)
- 10. Humorously critical, yet possibly racist (9)
- 13. He won't play a principal part (5)
- 14. Possibly part of the mail boat (6)
- 16. It is included in the tax (5)
- 20. She's held in reverence (3)



Quick Clues:

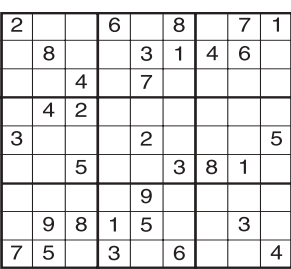
Across

- 1. Incident (12)
- 7. Trend (5)
- 8. Redbreast (5)
- 9. Look at (3)
- 10. Appearance (9)
- 11. Decayed (6)
- 12. Strain (6)
- 15. Wavering (9)
- 17. Can (3)
- 18. Alliance (5)
- 19. Honour (5)
- 21. Spineless (12)

Down

- 1. Scornful (12)
- 2. Large vase (3)
- 3. Road (6)
- 4. Revoked (9)
- 5. Hut (5)
- 6. Excessive (12)
- 7. Apply remedies (5)
- 10. Being (9)
- 13. Way in (5)
- 14. Promise (6)
- 16. Descendant (5)
- 20. Sphere (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	4	5	2	9	3	8	6	7
8	7	6	1	5	4	3	9	2
2	3	9	6	8	7	4	1	5
6	1	3	5	7	2	9	4	8
7	8	4	3	6	9	5	2	1
9	5	2	8	4	1	7	3	6
4	9	8	7	2	6	1	5	3
3	2	7	9	1	5	6	8	4
5	6	1	4	3	8	2	7	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Credits; 8 Animal; 9 Spirits; 10 Orders; 11 Sacked; 12 Snapshot; 18 Test-tube; 20 Stream; 21 Swathe; 22 Surcoat; 23 Prompt; 24 Redress. Down: 1 Carouse; 2 Misdeal; 3 Bains; 5 Ripostes; 6 Direct; 7 Tatter; 13 Hot meals; 14 Customs; 15 Presents; 16 Attune; 17 Fencer; 19 Toward. QUICK - Across: 4 Village; 8 Hearty; 9 Strange; 10 Rotten; 11 Roller; 12 Exertion; 18 Calamity; 20 Detour; 21 Prison; 22 Display; 23 Alomb; 24 Swollen. Down: 1 Shorten; 2 Canteen; 3 Street; 5 Internal; 6 Liable; 7 Gagged; 13 Increase; 14 Mission; 15 By and by; 16 Review; 17 Compel; 19 Abrupt.

Quiz

- 1. By what name do we know the bird sturnus vulgaris?
- 2. Which president's desk bore the legend 'the buck stops here'?
- 3. Who wrote The Caretaker in 1960?
- 4. Which city became France's capital for four days in WW2?
- 5. In whose honour is the US state of Virginia named?
- 6. Which bird has mistle and hermit varieties?
- 7. What name did photographer Emmanuel Rudnitsky assume?
- 8. What do we call the study of the surface shape of the land?
- 9. Who is chairman of the charity Mencap?
- 10. Which Manchester soccer legend died in January 1994?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 David Dimbleby; 2 Joey; 3 Zurich; 4 Kurt Vonnegut Jr; 5 Madonna; 6 Salmon; 7 Daley; 8 Tower of London; 9 Edwina Currie; 10 Motown.
- Niner: BOULEVARD

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 45678 gives a flower,
- 4371237 gives another flower,
- 82571489 gives a plant.



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FRI 13 MAR

FRI 10 APR

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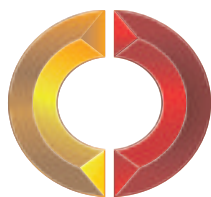
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# CHARLES DERBY

## ESTATES

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### Bilston

#### Ashley Street

- Mid Terraced House
- Double Glazed & Centrally Heated
- Refurbished
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Must Be Viewed



NEW

£97,000

### Willenhall

#### Locksmiths, Regent

- Terraced Bungalow
- Situated Close To Willenhall Center
- One Bedroom
- Storage Heating
- Shared Court way
- Investment Opportunity



NEW

£65,000

### Willenhall

#### Moseley Road

- Detached House
- Double Glazed & Central Heating
- Three Bedrooms
- Through lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Enclosed rear Garden



NEW

£600 PCM

### Bloxwich

#### Valley Road

- House Share
- Double Glazed & Centrally Heated
- All Bills Included
- Communal kitchen
- Part Furnished



NEW

£300 PCM

### Willenhall

#### Regent Street

- Ground Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Double glazed & Centrally Heated
- Spacious lounge
- Fitted Kitchen



NEW

£325 PCM

### Hednesford

#### Cannock Road

- Near To Hednesford Center
- First Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Double Glazed
- Through lounge
- Fitted Kitchen



NEW

£350 PCM

30 Walsall Road, Willenhall | Telephone 01902 244600



### Hollyhedge Lane Walsall



- Traditional Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- No Ongoing Chain, Recently Installed Modern

**OFFERS AROUND: £86,000**  
Viewing:

### Cecil Street Walsall



**REDUCED**

- Ground Floor Apartment In Converted School
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Energy Rating C, Contemporary Style Kitchen With

**OFFERS AROUND: £74,950**  
Viewing:

### PUBLIC NOTICE



**Blakenall Lane**  
80 Blakenall Lane, Walsall, WS3 1HT. we are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £83,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is D.

### Radford Close Walsall



- Modern Style Mid Town House
- Three Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Spacious Lounge & Kitchen
- EPC Awaited, Ground Floor Guest WC

**OFFERS AROUND: £110,000**  
Viewing:

### Manor Road Walsall



- Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Energy Rating D, Kitchen & Ground Floor Bathroom

**OFFERS AROUND: £99,950**  
Viewing:

### Wood Common Grange Walsall



- Four Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Through Lounge & Conservatory
- Cottage Style Breakfast Kitchen
- Off Road Parking & Garage, Utility Room & Guest

**Viewing: £240,000**

### Newhome Way Walsall



- Modern Style Three Storey Residence
- Master Bedroom With En-suite Shower Room
- Three Further Bedrooms
- Fore & Rear Garden, Lounge & Conservatory

**OFFERS AROUND: £155,000**  
Viewing:

## Thinking of Selling or Letting in 2015? Problem Solved



### In 2014 we achieved:

106,807 website visits, 1,114 sale and let properties marketed, 6,900 applicants registered, 13,028 viewings arranged, 1,867 offers taken, 511 sales agreed, 243 lets agreed

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Not only did you find a buyer for my property in record time after it had sat on the market for months with another agent, but you also helped me find my dream home. This is an estate agency that doesn't just make promises, it delivers them. **Mr and Mrs Dutton, Walsall**

Having been with another agent for 4 months with few viewings and no offers, we changed to Paul Dubberley and within a couple of weeks we had received 3 offers and sold STC. **Claire Jennings, Walsall**

Right from instruction I felt you were proactive and had my best interests at heart and nothing was too much trouble **Jane Myatt, West Bromwich**



I genuinely believe that no other estate agent would have given me the service you did or achieved the price that you did for me. **Jennifer Corbett, Essington**

You have restored my faith that there are agents who offer good customer service **Ms Massey, Brownhills**

### To arrange a free valuation call your local branch today

### Green Park Avenue Bilston



- 3 bedroom flat
- Immaculate condition
- Modern bathroom
- EPC - G, Double glazing

**OFFERS AROUND: £70,000**  
Viewing:

### Green Lanes Bilston



- Three Bedroom
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- EPC - D, Dining room

**OFFERS AROUND: £125,000**  
Viewing:

### Morville Croft Bilston



- 2 Bedroom ground floor flat
- No upward chain
- Modern kitchen
- Bathroom

**OFFERS AROUND: £67,500**  
Viewing:

### Moseley Road Wolverhampton



- 4 Bedroom semi detached house
- Entrance porch and hallway
- 2 Reception rooms
- EPC - D, Kitchen/diner

**OFFERS AROUND: £130,000**  
Viewing:

### Langley Avenue Bilston



- Charming 2 bedroom terraced house
- Driveway
- Lounge
- EPC - D, Kitchen/Diner

**OFFERS AROUND: £112,500**  
Viewing:

### Meldon Drive Bilston



- 3 Bedroom flat
- No upward chain
- Immaculate condition
- Lounge

**OFFERS AROUND: £70,000**  
Viewing:

### Loxdale Sidings Bilston



**REDUCED**

- 3 Bedroom townhouse
- Master bedroom and en-suite
- Lounge
- EPC - C, Modern kitchen

**OFFERS AROUND: £150,000**  
Viewing:

### Portway Road Bilston



- 3 Bedroom semi detached house
- Land to side and rear
- Entrance porch and hall
- EPC - D, Lounge/diner

**OFFERS AROUND: £129,950**  
Viewing:

Walsall  
01922 460781

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# L & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



## NEW INSTRUCTION



**BROADWATERS RD, DARLASTON**  
Extended Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Front Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Separate W.C. G/C/H, D/G, Garage, Garden To Front And Rear.

£125,000

## NEW INSTRUCTION



**DELAMERE RD, NEW INVENTION**  
Three Bed Semi Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Diner, Feature Conservatory, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Tandem Garage And Driveway.

£149,950

## NEW INSTRUCTION



**COTSWOLD GROVE, W'HALL**  
Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Guest W.C, Lounge, Open Plan Dining Area & Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H, Driveway & Garage. Front & Rear Gardens.

£169,995

## NEW INSTRUCTION



**BLOX RD NORTH, SHORT HEATH**  
Detached Three Bed Having Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge With Inglenook Fireplace, Separate Sitting Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Galleried Landing, Family Bathroom, Garage, D/ Glazing, C/ Heating.

£275,000



**VICTORIA STREET, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bed Mid Terraced. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom. D/G, Garden To Rear. Requires Updating In Parts But Generally Well Presented. An Excellent FTB or BTL.

£89,995

## IDEAL BUY TO LET



**TREETOPS DRIVE, WILLENHALL**  
One Bed First Floor Flat. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom And Bathroom. Also Having Full UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. Outside There Is A Garage In Separate Block.

£65,000



**GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL**  
Three Bed Mid Terrace. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, And Ground Floor Bathroom, G/C/H, D/G. Close To Willenhall Town Centre. Great BTL Investment Property.

£72,500



**VICTORIA STREET, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bed Mid Terrace. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower Room, First Floor Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Front And Rear Gardens. Great First Time Buy Or Buy To Let.

£80,000

## DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS



**BLOXWICH RD 5TH, W'HALL**  
Spacious Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment, Comprises Of Open Plan Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, En-Suite Shower Room & Family Bathroom, G/C/H, D/G. Allocated Parking & Communal Courtyard.

£81,500



**CHAUCER AVE, SHORT HEATH**  
Two Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Side Storage Area, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/ Glazing, C/ Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£89,995

## GREAT FIRST TIME BUY



**RUGELEY AVENUE, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Enclosed Side Access & Family Bathroom, D/G & G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear. Excellent First Time Buy Or BTL Investment!

£89,995

## REDUCED



**BROOKHILL CL, NEW INV**  
Three Bedroom Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/ Diner, Ground Floor W.C. And First Floor Bathroom. G/C/H, D/G. Gardens To Front & Rear. Detached Garage.

£92,500



**HORTON PLACE, DARLASTON**  
Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom, Separate W.C And First Floor Shower Room, D/G, G/C/H, Front & Rear Gardens. Off Road Parking.

£95,000



**HILTON ROAD, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bedroom Semi Detached Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom, G/C/H, D/G. Outside There Is Driveway Parking & A Garage. Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£99,995



**LIME AVENUE, BENTLEY**  
Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Separate Utility Area, Fitted Shower Room & Separate WC. D/G, G/C/H. Off Road Parking & Enclosed Rear Garden.

£100,000



**LEACROFT, NEW INVENTION**  
Three Bed End Town House Benefitting From Entrance Hallway, Through Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Crete Print Driveway. MUST BE VIEWED.

£105,000



**WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bed Mid Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge/Diner And Modern Shower Room. Outside Are Two Allocated Parking Spaces & Rear Garden.

£107,500



**THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL**  
Modern Two Bed Semi. Comprises Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory And Family Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Block Paved Driveway. Enclosed Rear Garden.

£110,000



**WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bedroom Mid Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, W.C, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/G G/C/H Outside There Are Two Allocated Parking Spaces. Gardens To Front & Rear.

£110,000



**MEMORIAL CL, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bed Semi Detached, Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner And Shower Room. D/G & G/C/H. Gardens And Driveway To The Front/Side And An Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£110,000



**LODGE STREET, WILLENHALL**  
Three Bedroom Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen & Family Bathroom, D/G & G/C/H, Driveway & Garage. Front & Rear Gardens.

£114,995



**ALBION ROAD, WILLENHALL**  
Three Bed Mid Terrace. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom With Bath & Shower And First Floor W.C Room. D/G, G/C/H. Rear Garden.

£115,000



**BASALT CLOSE, REEDSWOOD**  
Modern Three Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, En-Suite To Master Bed & Bathroom, Garage, Garden To The Front With Off Road Parking & An Fully Enclosed Rear Garden.

£130,000



**GOREY CLOSE, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge, Recently Re-Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Which Has Also Been Re-Fitted And Bathroom. G & G/C/H, Parking To Front & Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£130,000

## NEW INSTRUCTION



**TRENTHAM AVENUE, W'HALL**  
Three Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Side Vestibule With Brick Built Outbuildings & Modern Shower Room. D/G, G/C/H. Driveway. Front & Rear Gardens.

£132,500

## VIEWING ADVISED



**SOBERTON CL, WEDNESFIELD**  
Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen And Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H, Gardens To Front And Rear, Driveway Parking & Detached Garage.

£135,000

## STAMP DUTY PAID!



**AMPLEFORTH DRIVE, W'HALL**  
Three Bed End Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Ground Floor W.C, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen With Dining Area And Modern Family Bathroom, UPVC D/ Glazed And Central Heated. Off Road Parking, Garden To Rear. STAMP DUTY PAID BY VENDOR!

£137,500

## FOR SALE



**COPPICE FARM WAY, W'HALL**  
Extended Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room And Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazed And Gas Central Heated. Driveway Parking To The Fore And Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£140,000



**THE GREEN, DARLASTON**  
Four Bed Detached House Comprising Of Entrance Porch & Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, Rear Hallway, En-Suite Shower To Master Bed & Family Bathroom. Rear Garden & Off Road Parking.

£150,000 Offers Over



**SHEPWEEL GREEN, WILLENHALL**  
Three Bed Detached Dornier Bungalow. Comprises Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, Ground Floor Bedroom, Two Bathrooms, Two First Floor Bedrooms, GCH, DG, Detached Garage, Front & Rear Gardens.

£150,000



**ARNHEM ROAD, WILLENHALL**  
Well Presented Three Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, W.C, Family Bathroom, D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Extensive Gardens To The Rear.

£155,000



**HIGHMOOR CL, COPPICE FARM**  
Three Bed Detached Having Lounge, Separate Dining Room With UPVC Double Glazed French Doors, Fitted Kitchen, Master Bedroom With Fitted Wardrobes, Two Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Garage And Block Paved Driveway.

£169,995



**LICHFIELD ROAD, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bed Detached Bungalow Having Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.

£180,000



**BUSH STREET, DARLASTON**  
Three Bed Cottage Style Detached Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Bathroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms & En-Suite W.C To Master Bed. Outside Is Gated Parking, Double Garage With Office & Garden.

£195,000



**RIVERBANK RD, WILLENHALL**  
Immaculate Four Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch & Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, En-Suite Shower To Master & Family Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H, Garage, Gardens To Front & Rear.

£195,000



**MILL LANE, WILLENHALL**  
Three Bed Detached Bungalow With One Bed Annex. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Family Bathroom, The Annex Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner & Bedroom With En-Suite Shower Room.

£280,000



**FAIRLAWN WAY, NEW INV**  
Spacious First Floor Flat Comprises Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen With Appliances, Double Bedroom, Fitted Bathroom With Shower, Part D/ Glazed And Fully C/ Heated. Must View!

£300 PCM



**DILLOWAYS LANE, W'HALL**  
SPECIAL MANAGERS SPECIAL ONLY £99 ADMIN FEE  
Well Presented Two Bed First Floor Flat. The Property Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Stairs To First Floor, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, G/C/H, Upvc Double Glazing, To The Outside There Is A Shared Driveway To The Fore Off Road Parking And A Generous Garden To The Rear.

£400 PCM



**LEVESON STREET, W'HALL**  
Three Bed Mid Terraced. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen & Ground Floor Bathroom. Three Good Sized Bedrooms On The First Floor. G/C/H, D/G, Rear Garden.

£450 PCM



**VICTORIA STREET, W'HALL**  
Two Bed Mid Terraced Property. Comprises Of Two Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen With Utility Area & Modern Family Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H, Private Enclosed Courtyard To The Rear Leading To A Patio Area & Lawn.

£475 PCM



**SQUIRES GROVE, NEW INVEN**  
Modern Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En-Suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/G & E/H. Outside There Is An Allocated Parking Space And Access To Visitors Parking.

£500 PCM



**GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Spacious Lounge/ Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Good Sized Bedrooms & Family Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H, Driveway Parking & Garage. Enclosed Rear Garden.

£550 PCM



**PINE NEEDLE CROFT, W'HALL**  
Superbly Presented Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Separate Dining Area, Conservatory, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, UPVC D/G, G/C/H, Garage, Block Paved Driveway And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£600 PCM



**MEMORIAL CLOSE, W'HALL**  
Four Bedroom Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Conservatory, Integral Garage/Storage Area And Family Bathroom, D/G & G/C/H, Double Driveway, Rear Garden.

£650 PCM

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**BOOTH STREET  
BLOXWICH**

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- 18ft Dining kitchen including oven & hob
- UPVC D/glazed conservatory
- UPVC D/ glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- ORP
- Council tax band A

£550 PCM



**AVON ROAD  
WALSALL**

- End town house style property
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom with shower fitment
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Front & rear garden
- Off road parking
- Council Tax Band : TBC

£500 PCM



**MOSELEY ROAD  
WILLENHALL**

- Detached family home
- Three bedrooms
- UPVC d/glazing & c/heating
- Rear garden
- Garage & off road parking
- Council tax band C

£600 PCM



**BOW STREET  
WILLENHALL**

- Two bed mid terrace
- Close to W hall centre
- Lounge & kitchen
- Central heating
- Fitted bathroom
- Council tax band A

£395 PCM



**LAKESIDE CLOSE  
WILLENHALL**

- Modern style semi
- Central heating & double glazed
- Lounge & dining Kitchen
- Garage & driveway
- Council tax band B

£575 PCM



**ROSEHILL GARDENS  
WILLENHALL**

- Second floor flat heating
- Two double bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen
- Double glazed
- Electric blow air
- Council tax band A

£400 PCM



**LAKESIDE CLOSE  
WILLENHALL**

- Back To Back End Town House
- Cul De Sac Location
- Lounge & Kitchen
- One Bedroom
- Double Glazing
- Council Tax: A

£395 PCM

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## HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR BREAKTHROUGH BREAST CANCER

[@GOODCHILDS\\_EA](https://www.facebook.com/goodchilds_ea)

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THE WEALDSTONE RAIDER  
WILL BE HELPING TO RAISE  
MONEY AT THE GOODCHILDS  
WOLVERHAMPTON OFFICE  
ON SATURDAY 17TH  
JANUARY AT 2PM TAKING  
SELFIES AND VIDEOS.

The internet sensation the Wealdstone Raider, with over 7 million hits on Youtube and reaching number 5 in the UK singles chart is coming to Wolverhampton.

Gordon Hill AKA the Wealdstone Raider has raised over 30 thousand pounds for charity and has now teamed up with award winning estate agents Goodchilds and First 4 Staff to help raise money for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

The Wealdstone Raider will be at the Goodchilds Wolverhampton office on Saturday 17th January at 2pm. Get there early, he will be doing selfies and videos for people and all we ask is a minimum donation of a pound for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Jason Guy Director of First 4 Staff comments:

Following my partner Lucy getting diagnosed with breast cancer in may 2013, we wanted to make a difference. Initially we set a target



of raising £1000 but raised £3000 on our first event so we set the target at £50,000 and have raised over £30,000 in the last 18 months. The charity we support is Breakthrough Breast Cancer which in the words of our oncologist is pioneering as they seek to find a cure for the illness which affects 250,000 women in the UK each year.

For further details go to the Goodchilds Twitter or Facebook pages.



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RAISED THOUSANDS FOR:



Working with  
**FIRST4STAFF!**



# We Value Your Home

# SKITTS

## ESTATE AGENTS

## JANUARY SALE

All these properties have been reduced for our January Sale promotion

EPC D



### NEW INVENTION BARMOUTH CLOSE

- Modern Style Detached
- Large Lounge
- Dining Room
- Re-Fitted Kitchen, Utility



- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom,
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage, Gardens, No Chain

£159,995

EPC TBC



### WILLENHALL DILLOWAYS LANE

- Extended traditional semi detached property
- Through lounge
- Superb family/dining room
- Fitted kitchen



- 3 bedrooms • Refitted bathroom
- Double glazing
- Gas CH
- Driveway • Gardens

£134,000

EPC C



### WILLENHALL BENTON CLOSE, OFF STROUD AV

- Well Presented Mid Town House
- No Chain
- 20ft Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen



- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £100,000

EPC B



### BENTLEY CHURCHILL ROAD

- Exceptional modern style detached property
- Four good size bedrooms
- 24ft through lounge/dining room
- Newly fitted kitchen, Utility/wc
- Refitted bathroom
- En-suite shower room
- Double glazing, Gas central heating
- Garage, driveway, Rear garden



£209,995

EPC TBC



### WILLENHALL STROUD AVENUE

- Modern style semi detached
- Lounge
- Impressive refitted dining kitchen
- Bathroom
- Three bedrooms
- Double glazing, Gas CH
- Garage, Block paved driveway
- Gardens



OFFERS OVER £145,000

EPC C



### BENTLEY TENBURY CLOSE

- Superb Modern Style Semi Detached
- Spacious Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Brand New Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Driveway
- Delightful Landscaped Rear Gardens
- Planning Permission for Two Storey Side Extension



OFFERS OVER £135,000

EPC D



### SNEYD PARK CEDAR PARK ROAD

- Mid Terrace Property
- No Upward Chain
- Hall, Spacious Lounge
- Kitchen



- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Garage
- Rear Gardens

£99,500

EPC D



### BENTLEY POPLAR AVENUE

- Two Bedroom Semi detached
- No chain
- Lounge, Dining kitchen
- Conservatory



- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Garage to the rear
- Front and rear gardens

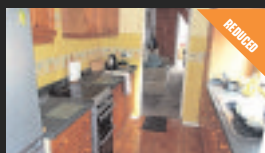
£94,950

EPC E



### WILLENHALL ST ANNE'S ROAD

- Period Three Bedroom Mid Terrace
- No Chain
- Through Lounge / Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen



- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Rear Gardens

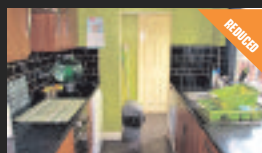
£83,000

EPC E



### WILLENHALL ROSEHILL

- Improved mid terraced property
- No chain
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge • Dining room



- Refitted kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double glazing
- Pleasant rear garden

OFFERS OVER £85,000

EPC TBC



### NEW INVENTION RUGELEY AVENUE

- End Terrace Property • No chain
- Large Lounge, Kitchen • Sitting/Utility Room
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Gas CH • Gardens

OFFERS OVER £105,000



### NEW INVENTION CANNOCK ROAD

- Much Improved Modern Style Mid Town House
- Lounge • Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom



- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage • Gardens
- No Upward Chain

£80,000



### SHORT HEATH COLTHAM ROAD

- Traditional Semi Detached with No Chain
- Hall • Lounge • Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom • Part Gas CH
- Long Rear Gardens

STARTING BID £80,000

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### COPPICE FARM ULLSWATER ROAD

- Exceptional Detached Residence
- No Chain
- Impressive Secluded Position
- Four Bedrooms, En-Suite Shower Room
- Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory
- Excellent Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Utility / WC, Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Garage & Block Paved Driveway
- Pleasant Front, Rear Gardens



**£240,000**



### ESSINGTON WALDALE CLOSE

- Exceptional Extended Link Detached
- Lounge • Dining room
- Superb refitted kitchen
- Utility and wc • Study



- 3 bedrooms • Refitted bathroom
- Gas central heating • Double glazing
- Block paved driveway • Garage
- Delightful front and rear gardens

**£199,500**



### COPPICE FARM MILES MEADOW CLOSE

- Extended Modern Style Detached Property
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Guests WC



- Four Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Block Paved Driveway, Gardens

**£180,000**



### NEW INVENTION HIGHGROVE CLOSE

- Impressive Detached Property
- Premier Location
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Large Lounge



- Dining Room
- Kitchen • Utility
- Gas CH • Double Glazing
- Garage • Gardens

**£175,000**



### COPPICE FARM GRAZEWOOD CLOSE

- Extended Modern Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Conservatory, Kitchen



- Utility with WC
- Garage, Driveway
- Further Rear Driveway
- Gardens, Bathroom

**£169,995**



### NEW INVENTION DELAMERE ROAD

- Superb Modern Semi Detached
- Popular Location
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Lounge



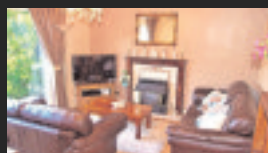
- Well Appointed Dining Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Tandem Garage • Drive
- Gardens

**£149,950**



### WILLENHALL DARVEL ROAD

- Much improved modern semi detached
- Premier Location
- 3 bedrooms
- Lounge with dining area
- Refitted kitchen



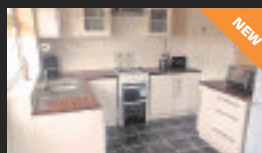
- Bathroom • Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Garage • Driveway
- Front and rear gardens

**£130,000**



### WOODLANDS LOMBARDY GARDENS

- Much improved Semi Detached
- Hall • Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen



- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Gardens

**£130,000**



### WILLENHALL VERNON CLOSE

- Spacious Semi Detached
- Lounge • Large Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Shower Room



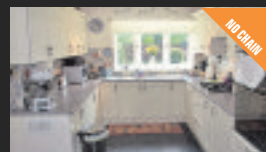
- Gas CH
- Double Glazing
- No Chain
- Gardens

**£105,000**



### NEW INVENTION HILTON ROAD

- Well 3 Bedroom mid terrace
- No chain
- Hall with wc
- Superb refitted dining kitchen



- Lounge
- Refitted shower room
- Double glazing
- Gas CH • Rear garden

**£97,000**



### KINGFISHER ESTATE WELLAND GROVE

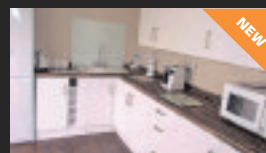
- Modern Style Semi Detached • Corner Plot
- Lounge • Kitchen • Three Bedrooms
- Garage • Driveway
- Gardens • No Chain

**£135,000**



### BENTLEY POPLAR AVENUE

- Impeccably Presented Semi Detached
- Hall • Lounge
- Superb Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms



- Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Gas CH
- Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens

**£110,000**



### SHORT HEATH TENNYSON ROAD

- End Terrace Property • Hall • Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen • Utility • 3 Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Shower Room • Double Glazing
- Gas CH • Delightful Rear Gardens • Driveway

**£115,000**



### PORTOBELLO VAUGHAN ROAD

- Much improved 2 bedroom town house
- 16ft Lounge • Conservatory • Gas CH
- Breakfast kitchen • Refitted bathroom • D Glaz
- Generous rear garden • Block paved driveway

**£109,950**



### WILLENHALL CHILTERN DRIVE

- Modern 3 Bedroom Mid Town House
- Lounge • Dining Kitchen
- Conservatory • Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Driveway, Rear Gardens

**OFFERS OVER £105,000**



### WILLENHALL REGENT STREET

- Period 2/3 Bedrooms Mid Terrace • No Chain
- Lounge • Dining Room • Kitchen
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating

**£75,000**

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**HERE ARE A FEW RECENT COMMENTS  
FROM OUR HAPPY CUSTOMERS**

**Mrs P said**, with special thanks to the team at Skitts for all your support, care and professionalism during an emotional time for our family, we will recommend you to all our friends.

**Mrs J said**, the Skitts team were very professional and worked very hard to sell my property.

**Mr J said**, I had tried other agents but was unsuccessful, then I used you and you sold it for the price I wanted and quickly.

**Mr & Mrs A said**, thank you so much for all your help and support in making our move as painless as possible.

**Mr & Mrs H said**, thank you for all your help, we really appreciate all you did for us.

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**PLECK, WALSALL SOMERS ROAD**

- Well cared for town house style property offering accommodation thought ideal for first time purchasers
- Two generous bedrooms
- Reception hall
- Spacious 19ft through lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- First floor bathroom
- Pleasant gardens to front and rear

**£92,500 OFFERS**



**WALSALL GUILD AVENUE**

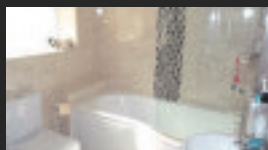
- Corner plot semi detached property
- Considerably improved re-fitted accommodation
- Ideal first time purchase
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Excellent re-fitted dining kitchen with oven and hob
- Re-fitted bathroom with shower fitment

**£95,000 OFFERS**



**BLOXWICH BOOTH STREET**

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Central heating & Upvc double glazed windows
- Upstairs bathroom



- Bedroom one with fitted wardrobes
- Garden to the rear
- Off road parking to the fore
- Thought ideal for first time buyers or a young couple

**OFFERS OVER £89,995**



**LEAMORE, WALSALL BEATRICE STREET**

- Town house style property conveniently located near to green lane, walsall
- Three bedrooms
- Upstairs bathroom with shower



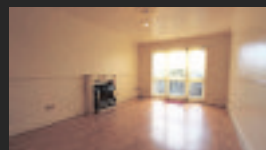
- Front and rear gardens
- Gas central heating and upvc double glazed windows
- Ideal first time purchase

**£79,995 OFFERS**



**BLOXWICH ROCKINGHAM CLOSE**

- Modern style town house conveniently located near to Bloxwich town centre
- Two bedrooms
- Double glazed windows



- 18ft rear lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Allocated parking space

**£89,950 OFFERS**



**BLOXWICH CENTRAL DRIVE**

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Gas central heating
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Generous rear garden
- Off road parking
- No upward chain!
- Viewing strongly recommended

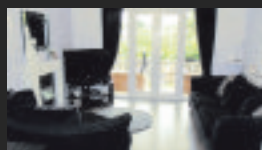


**OFFERS OVER £100,000**



**BLAKENHALL HEATH, WALSALL**

- Pleasant modern style end town house conveniently located near to local amenities
- Three bedrooms



**BELL TOWER CLOSE**

- Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
- Fitted kitchen with oven and hob
- 15ft rear lounge with French doors

**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £130,000**

**WANTED  
WE URGENTLY  
NEED  
PROPERTIES ON  
THE MOSSLEY  
ESTATE,  
BLOXWICH  
BUYERS WAITING!**

**WANTED  
WE URGENTLY  
NEED  
PROPERTIES ON  
THE BEECHDALE  
ESTATE,  
WALSALL  
BUYERS WAITING!**



**BLOXWICH BROAD LANE**

- Much improved semi detached property
- Extended to the rear and side elevations
- Popular Broad Lane location
- Four bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Gas central heating
- Bathroom and shower room
- Detached garage
- Block paved driveway



**£174,950 OFFERS**

**OnTheMarket.com**  
coming 26 January 2015



**BLOXWICH WETHERBY ROAD**

- Semi detached residence situated in popular Turnberry Road development
- Three bedrooms
- Central heating & Upvc D/glazed windows
- Full width rear lounge/dining room
- Garage currently used as study/utility room and w.c
- Enclosed rear garden with timber decked patio
- Off road parking to the fore

**£159,950 OFFERS**



**WALSALL HARDEN CLOSE**

- First floor maisonette
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating & Upvc double glazed windows
- Lounge, kitchen and bathroom

**£44,950 CASH OFFERS ONLY**



**MILLFIELD AVENUE BLOXWICH**

- Pleasant ground floor apartment
- One bedroom
- Modern style re-fitted kitchen
- Re-fitted modern style shower room

**£65,000 OFFERS**



# We Value Your Home

# SKITTS

## ESTATE AGENTS

EPC: D



NEW

### WALSALL NEW FOREST ROAD

- Pleasant modern style semi detached property
- Generous side and rear gardens with potential to extend (subject to planning)
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Fitted dining kitchen
- First floor bathroom
- Garage and off road parking



£124,950 OFFERS



NEW

### BLOXWICH ENVILE CLOSE

- Modern style town house situated in popular Turnberry development
- Two bedrooms
- Majority double glazing
- Electric heating
- First floor bathroom
- Pleasant rear garden
- Off road parking
- Viewing strongly recommended!



£124,950 OFFERS

EPC: TBC



NEW

### WALSALL CHESTNUT ROAD

- EXCELLENT FIRST TIME BUY
- Pleasant two bedroom semi detached property set back behind generous fore garden
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- First floor bathroom
- Lovely established rear garden
- Viewing recommended via agent!!



£89,950 OFFERS

EPC: C



JANUARY SALE

### HIGH HILL ESSINGTON

- Pleasantly appointed traditional style detached property situated in popular Essington village location
- Well maintained accommodation
- Three bedrooms
- 21ft through lounge/dining room
- Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- First floor bathroom with shower
- Attractive enclosed rear garden



£212,500 OFFERS

EPC: D



JANUARY SALE

### ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE

- Extended traditional style semi
- Gas central heating, upvc double glazing
- Two reception rooms
- Three bedrooms
- Sun room and fitted kitchen
- First floor bathroom with shower
- Ground floor shower room
- Garden and garage at rear
- No chain



OFFERS OVER £179,950

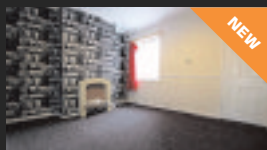
EPC: D



NEW

### WALSALL WELL LANE

- Pleasant terraced style property
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Gas central heating & Upvc double glazed windows



- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with shower fitment
- Garden and garage space at rear
- No upward chain

£84,950 OFFERS

EPC: E



JANUARY SALE

### BLOXWICH LICHFIELD ROAD

- Semi detached property situated behind generous frontage
- Three bedrooms
- Part double glazing & gas central heating system



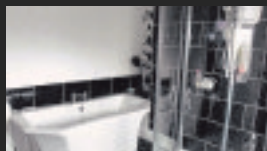
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen and utility room
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Garage and parking to the rear

£125,000 OFFERS

EPC: E



- Superbly appointed end terraced family home
- Situated close to bloxwich high street
- Three double bedrooms



- Two reception rooms
- Fitted breakfast kitchen
- Impressive bathroom
- Internal viewing strongly recommended!

OFFERS OVER £125,000

EPC: TBC



### SELMANS HILL BLOXWICH

- imposing extended traditional style detached
- Offering spacious family living accommodation
- Must be viewed to be fully appreciated
- Four bedroom
- Two reception rooms
- Tandem garage
- No upward chain
- Viewing via agent!!



£275,000 OFFERS

EPC: D



- Well appointed extended detached property
- Five bedrooms
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Well equipped fitted kitchen

£195,000 OFFERS



- Much improved semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Fitted bathroom
- Gas CH & double Glazing

£169,950 OFFERS

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**Longwood Lane, Walsall**

- Five Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Two Reception Rooms
- L' Shaped Kitchen/Dining Room
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Two Further Ground Floor Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Loft Conversion with Two Further Bedrooms & Shower Room

**Monthly Rental Of £1,200.00**

**Lichfield Road, Willenhall**

- Three/Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen with Integrated Appliances
- Conservatory
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
- Two Further Double Bedrooms

**Monthly Rental Of £795**

**Woodall Street, Walsall**

- New Build Three Bedroom Detached
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Guest W.C.
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room

**Monthly Rental Of £695**

**Buckingham Drive, Willenhall**

- Three Bedroom Detached Property
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted
- Off Road Parking

**Monthly Rental Of £550**

**Broad Lane, Walsall**

- Immaculate Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden & Decking Area
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Excellent Transport Links
- Viewing is Essential

**Monthly Rental Of £550**

**Stuart Street, Walsall**

- Three Bedroom End of Terrace
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom / Separate WC
- DHSS Accepted

**Monthly Rental Of £525**

**Lapwing Close, Walsall**

- Canalside Views!
- TWO Bedrooms, Built in Wardrobes
- Family Bathroom
- Open Plan Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen With Integrated Appliances
- Sorry No DHSS

**Monthly Rental Of £500**

**Providence Lane, Walsall**

- Three Bed End Terrace
- New Flooring Throughout
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking

**Monthly Rental Of £475**

**Botany Road, Walsall**

- Three Bedroom property
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens

**Monthly Rental Of £475**

**Gurney Road, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Family Bathroom
- Well Kept Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating

**Monthly Rental Of £450**

**West Street, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- No Pets or Smokers

**Monthly Rental Of £450**

**Fishley Lane, Walsall**

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower over Bath
- Two Bedrooms
- Allocated Parking Space
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

**Monthly Rental Of £450**

**Victoria Avenue, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Large Lounge with Storage
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

**Monthly Rental Of £450**

**Wednesbury Road, Walsall**

- One Bedroom Flat
- Above Retail Premises
- Includes Electricity/Water Charges
- Fully Refurbished
- White Goods Included
- Lounge/Kitchen

**Monthly Rental Of £430**

**Walker Road, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom 1st Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Entrance Hallway
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

**Monthly Rental Of £425**

**Waterfront Way, Walsall**

- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- Close to all amenities & near canal
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

**Monthly Rental Of £425**

**Bloxwich Road, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted
- NO REFERENCING FEES

**Monthly Rental Of £425**

**Radford Drive, Walsall**

- Communal Hallway
- Large Lounge
- Open Plan Kitchen & Appliances
- Two Bedrooms With Fitted Wardrobes
- Bathroom
- Communal Gardens

**Monthly Rental Of £425**

**Taverners Close, Willenhall**

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Front Garden

**Monthly Rental Of £425**

**High Street, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Two Floor Flat above Retail Premises
- Large Lounge
- Shower Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing & Electric Heating

**Monthly Rental Of £400**

**Sandwell Street, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Flat
- First Floor
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Two Bedrooms
- Close to Town Centre

**Monthly Rental Of £380**

**Leyland Croft, Walsall**

- One Bedroom Flat
- New Kitchen
- New Bathroom
- Spacious Throughout
- Sorry No Pets
- DHSS Considered

**Monthly Rental Of £380**

**Harrison Street, Walsall**

- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Open Plan Kitchen & Lounge
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted

**Monthly Rental Of £350**

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### Station Road, Walsall



Offers around £87,000

A well presented and much improved spacious two bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, NEW ROOF (fitted in Feb 2013) and no upward chain. Previously a three bedroom with potential to convert back and an ideal investment opportunity whilst offering great value for money this lovely, good sized property further comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room /W.C. two double bedrooms, family bathroom and rear garden. Energy rating D.

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### Wharfedale Street, Wednesbury



Offers around £125,000

A well presented good size 3/4 bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, three bedrooms, attic room (used as bedroom four) and rear garden with outbuilding. Awaiting energy rating.

### Tasker Street, Walsall



Offers around £132,500

A superb brand new two bedroom end of terrace family home currently still under construction in the brand new 'Tannery Court' development in Walsall town centre. Built by Lion Homes and having the benefit of NHBC guarantee, UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, guest W.C., lounge, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking.

### Thorpe Road, Walsall



Offers around £95,000

A middle terrace family home having the benefit of planning permission for a single storey rear extension, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, lounge, refitted kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms, family bathroom and rear garden. Energy rating D.

### Somerset Road, Walsall



Offers around £119,995

A well presented three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. Recently refurbished this lovely property further comprises, reception hall, lounge with feature fireplace, refitted kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating E.

### Pommel Close, Walsall



Offers around £127,500

A very well presented three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of quiet cul-de-sac location, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises reception hall, lounge/diner with feature fireplace, modern fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, off road parking and integral garage. ●●CURRENT OWNER IS CURRENTLY BUYING THE FREEHOLD●●. Energy rating D..

### Coronation Avenue, Willenhall



Offers around £115,000

●●REFURBISHED, UPGRADED AND IMPROVED●● Traditional 3 bedroom semi detached having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely family home further comprises, reception hall, lounge, refitted kitchen/diner, refitted bathroom, 3 bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating E.

### Foster Street, Darlaston



Offers around £94,995

●●NO UPWARD CHAIN, GOOD SIZE THREE BEDROOM HOUSE, THAT MUST BE SOLD●● A good size three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen diner, utility room, three bedrooms, family bathroom and front and rear gardens. Energy rating D.

### King William Street, Stoke On Trent



Offers around £54,995

●●IDEAL FOR INVESTMENT, SUIT LANDLORD●● A two bedroom middle terrace property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, family bathroom and two double bedrooms. Energy rating D

### Oxford Place, Walsall



Offers around £84,995

A superb two bedroom first floor modern apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely apartment further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted modern kitchen with integrated appliances, two bedrooms (master with en suite shower room), family bathroom with shower from taps and allocated parking. Suit first time buyer or landlord as property is currently let for ?450pcm. Energy rating C.

### Woodruff Way, Tamebridge, Walsall



Offers around £146,995

●●MUST BE VIEWED & WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN●● A superb three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Improved and upgraded the property further comprises, reception hall, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms (en-suite shower room to master), family bathroom, rear garden, garage and off road parking for two vehicles to the front. Energy rating D. VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

### 33 Princess Street, Wolverhampton



Offers around £72,500

A good size one bedroom second floor modern apartment having the benefit of video entry phone, city centre location, secondary glazing and no upward chain. The property has a spacious lounge, good size breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances, double bedroom with built in wardrobe, bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from electric heating and video entry phone and being close to the city centre. Energy rating E.

### Camborne Road, Park Hall, Walsall



Offers around £79,995

A refurbished and upgraded superb one bedroom ground floor apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and part underfloor heating and storage heaters. Located in the sought after Park Hall estate this lovely property further comprises, communal entrance with intercom, reception hall, lounge, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, double bedroom with built in wardrobe, communal gardens and parking and a garage. Energy rating D.

### Victory Lane, Walsall



Offers around £199,000

A superb extended four bedroom family home having the benefit of double glazing, gas central heating, no upward chain. This ideal family home further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, study, fitted breakfast kitchen, guest W.C., ground floor shower room, four bedrooms master with ensuite, family bathroom, rear garden with brick built shed, garage and off road parking. Energy rating D.

### Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich



Offers around £93,995

A three bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, guest W.C., three bedrooms, family shower room and front and rear gardens. Energy rating C.

### Albion Street, Oldbury



Offers around £140,000

Refurbished, improved and upgraded 3/4 bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, garage conversion (currently used as beauty room), guest W.C., three bedrooms, attic room (bedroom 4) family bathroom, separate W.C., rear garden and off road parking to the front for several vehicles. Energy rating C.



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# Fresh style inside and out plus a new model

By Matt Kimberley

**Kia's quart-from-a-pint-pot small car, the facelifted Venga, is now on sale in the UK.**

There are restyled front and rear ends which give the Venga a sportier appearance and the interiors have been refreshed with added touches of luxury and more equipment. At the top of the range there is a new Venga 4 model.

The new line-up is based on five trim grades and four engines, giving a choice of 11 models. The highly economical 1.4- and 1.6-litre petrol and diesel engines are carried over from the previous Venga and give potential fuel economy of up to 64.2mpg, with CO2 emissions as low as 117g/km. Intelligent Stop & Go (ISG) is standard where it can effect a worthwhile improvement in fuel consumption and emissions, and appears on all but one manual version.

The 89bhp 1.4-litre petrol engine is offered with 1, 1 Air and 2 trim grades, while the 89bhp 1.4-litre diesel is reserved exclusively for Venga 2. The two 1.6-litre engines with manual transmission are available with grades 3 and 4. The 1.6 petrol engine is also offered with a four-speed automatic gearbox in grades 2, 3 and 4.

All versions have a more aggressive, sportier front bumper and main grille, featuring a new take on the 'tiger nose' theme with high-gloss black mesh and a chrome surround. The Kia logo has been relocated to the bodywork. The lower air intake has been redesigned to house daytime running lights (LED with grades 3 and 4) next to the fog lights, which now sit in high-gloss black housings joined by a chrome strip. There is also now a chrome strip linking the rear light units, which are LED on Venga 4. Another premium touch with Venga 4 is the chrome exterior door handles.

For grades 2 and above, there are new-style 16-inch alloy wheels with five triple spokes, while grades 1 and 1 Air continue with 15-inch steel wheels with five-spoke embellishers.

Interior improvements include new black Houndstooth cloth for entry-grade models, while grade 2 continues with black Beat cloth and level 3 again has black Bamboo part-leather and part-cloth upholstery. This is also fitted to the new Venga 4. There is a new Grey Metal Grain paint finish for the centre fascia of Venga 1, 1 Air and 2, while high-gloss black continues to adorn Venga 3 and is replicated in the new Venga 4.

Split rear seats that slide fore and aft by up to 130mm allow the passenger accommodation to be stretched when maximum luggage capacity is not needed. Alternatively, a two-tier boot means that owners who occasionally need more than the standard 440 litres of cargo space can expand the luggage area simply by lowering the floor. The luggage compartment thus becomes 163mm taller, extending total volume to 570 litres. If more space is required, the rear seats have 'Fold & Dive' functionality, which makes them seem to disappear into the floor, creating a completely flat deck in a load area offering a cavernous 1,253 litres of space.

## Specified

All models are extremely highly specified, and features previously unattainable with the Venga now appear in certain models. Tyre Pressure Monitoring is fitted to all versions, warning the driver of any potentially serious loss of pressure via a symbol in the instrument cluster. Automatic Light Control is now standard with Venga 3 and 4, and Venga 4 also has 'welcome' and 'follow-me-home' lighting.

Other unique features to Venga 4 are a smart key with engine start/stop button, a heated steering wheel activated by a control switch on the right-hand wheel spoke to complement the heated front seats fitted to Venga 3 and 4, and a panoramic sunroof. Venga 3 and 4 are also equipped with a 7-inch touchscreen satellite navigation system with European mapping and a Traffic Messaging Channel. The full-colour touchscreen also includes a reversing camera. The infotainment system, which is also accessed via the touchscreen, no longer includes a CD player due to the increasing trend among customers of using portable devices to play music. The high-quality six speaker audio system includes RDS radio, full MP3 compatibility and AUX and USB ports.

Standard across the range are driver's seat height adjustment, tilt and telescopic steering wheel adjustment, electric front windows, remote central locking, tinted glass, steering wheel-mounted audio controls, a front passenger armrest, body-coloured handles and door mirrors and electrically adjustable heated door mirrors.

Venga 2 models add alloy wheels, an iPod cable, Bluetooth hands-free mobile phone operation with music streaming, rear electric windows, folding door mirrors and reversing sensors. Venga 3 versions come with climate control, front and rear electric windows, front fog lamps, privacy glass on the rear windows and tailgate and cruise control with a speed limiter.

For safety, all Vengas have six airbags), active front head restraints and two ISOFIX child-seat mounting points.

Every Venga has Kia's unique seven-year/100,000-mile warranty, subject to terms and conditions covering wear-and-tear items. It is transferable to future owners should the car be sold during the period of the warranty.



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2013/62	Chevrolet Aveo 1.3 VCDi LTZ 5 door Hatchback, Borcay Blue, 11015 miles miles .....	£8300	£8000	➔ X
2011/61	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6 LS 4 door Saloon Automatic, Summit White, 23887 miles .....	£6000		
2011/61	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6 LT 5 door Hatchback, Pewter Grey, 23453 miles .....	£6700		
2011/61	Chevrolet Orlando 2.0 VCDi LT 5 door MPV Automatic, Velvet Red, 24000 miles .....	£8700	£8200	➔ X
2011/11	Chevrolet Orlando 2.0 VCDi LT 5 door MPV Automatic, Pewter Grey, 26139 miles .....	£8500	£7000	➔ X
2012/62	Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 3 door Hatchback, Sunset Red, 7941 miles .....	£8000	£7500	➔ X
2011/11	smart fortwo 1.0 Passion Sat Nav 2 door Coupe Automatic, Deep Black, 27000 miles .....	£5400	£5200	➔ X
2010/59	Toyota Auris 1.6 SR V-matic 5 door Hatchback, Island Blue, 22000 miles .....	£7500	£7200	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Agila 1.2 SE 5 door Hatchback Automatic, Olympic White, 16000 miles .....	£8000	£7500	➔ X
2014/14	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 CDTi SRi exoFLEX Stop/Start 5 door Hatchback, Flip Chip Silver, 8443 miles .....	£13500	£13000	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Elite 5 door Hatchback, Sovereign Silver, 6807 miles .....	£9700	£9400	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Exclusiv 5 door Estate Automatic, Sovereign Silver, 22749 miles .....	£8000	£7500	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Exclusiv 5 door Estate Automatic, Silky Shadow, 30866 miles .....	£7000	£6500	➔ X
2014/14	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 SE 5 door Hatchback, Carbon Flash, 12594 miles .....	£10700	£10200	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 SE 5 door Hatchback Automatic, Silver Lake, 11882 miles .....	£8500		
2011/11	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 SRi 5 door Hatchback, Carbon Flash, 21705 miles .....	£9000		
2012/62	Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi Sport GTC Start/Stop 3 door Hatchback, Olympic White, 12466 miles .....	£11700	£11200	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi Elite Start/Stop 5 door Hatchback, Carbon Flash, 15032 miles .....	£9500		
2011/11	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi SE 5 door Estate Automatic, Carbon Flash, 25632 miles .....	£9500	£9000	➔ X
2011/11	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi SE 5 door Hatchback, Technical Grey, 45317 miles .....	£8400	£8200	➔ X
2012/62	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi Start/Stop 5 door Hatchback, Olympic White, 5434 miles .....	£13500	£10000	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi Start/Stop 5 door Hatchback, Technical Grey, 16067 miles .....	£8700		
2012/12	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Active A/C 3 door Hatchback, Flame Red, 10265 miles .....	£7000		
2013/63	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Energy 3 door Hatchback, Olympic White, 2841 miles .....	£8000	£7700	➔ X
2013/13	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Energy 3 door Hatchback, Olympic White, 6580 miles .....	£7000	£7700	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Excite 5 door Hatchback, Lime Green, 19342 miles .....	£6500	£6000	➔ X
2012/62	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Limited Edition 3 door Hatchback, Flame Red, 18046 miles .....	£8500	£8500	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SE 5 door Hatchback, Silver Lake, 12525 miles .....	£6400	£6100	➔ X
2012/62	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 3 door Hatchback, Silver Lake, 8887 miles .....	£6300	£6000	➔ X
2012/62	Vauxhall Corsa 1.3 CDTi ecoFLEX Active A/C 5 door Hatchback, Waterworld Blue, 40000 miles .....	£7000	£6600	➔ X
2014/14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.3 CDTi SE ecoFLEX 5 door Hatchback, Silver Lake, 2334 miles .....	£10500		
2012/12	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Active A/C 5 door Hatchback, Tehnical Grey, 32658 miles .....	£6700	£6000	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 5 door Hatchback, Olympic White, 23000 miles .....	£11000	£10500	➔ X
2011/11	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 5 door Hatchback, Carbon Flash, 38000 miles .....	£9700	£9200	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 5 door Hatchback, Sovereign Silver, 9839 miles .....	£10000		
2011/11	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi Nav 5 door Hatchback, Olympic White, 13500 miles .....	£10800	£10500	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi Nav 5 door Hatchback, Panacotta, 32278 miles .....	£9700	£9700	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv MPV, Oriental Blue, 5707 miles .....	£7600	£7600	➔ X
2011/11	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 SE 5 door MPV, Sovereign Silver, 9450 miles .....	£8000	£7700	➔ X
2011/11	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 SE 5 door MPV, Carbon Flash, 30422 miles .....	£7700		
2011/61	Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi Exclusiv 5 door MPV, Silver Lake, 18727 miles .....	£8000	£7300	➔ X
2013/63	Vauxhall Mokka 1.7 CDTi SE Start/Stop 5 door Hatchback, Summit White, 4017 miles .....	£17500		
2011/60	Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 Exclusiv 5 door MPV, Waterworld Blue, 29000 miles .....	£7200	£7200	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi Elite ecoFLEX 5 door MPV, Olympic White, 43444 miles .....	£9000	£8400	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi Elite ecoFLEX 5 door MPV, Sovereign Silver, 32231 miles .....	£9000		
2012/62	Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi Excite ecoFLEX 5 door MPV, Waterworld Blue, 13016 miles .....	£9200	£8600	➔ X
2011/61	Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 Design 5 door MPV, Carbon Flash, 24091 miles .....	£9500		
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# Cross purposeful

Suzuki has set the SX4 S-Cross up to ride fairly softly and that's a good thing on roads like ours but they've also managed to include a respectable amount of roll stiffness, which means you won't encounter lurching when cornering.

The four-wheel-drive transmission features an electronically controlled clutch pack, operated by a four-position switch on the centre console. Choose 'Auto' and it'll stick to driving the front wheels unless slip is detected, whereupon the rear wheels are pressed into action.

'Sport' diverts up to 20 per cent of torque to the rear wheels to give livelier handling. 'Snow' offers permanent four-wheel drive, with the system choosing how much torque to split front and rear, while 'Lock' splits the torque equally between front and rear.

Prices sit in the £15,000 to £24,000 bracket, with diesel models starting at around £17,000.

## Premium

There's a choice of five trim levels – SZ3, SZ4, SZ-T and SZ5. The ALLGRIP 4WD system is only available on the top version for a premium of around £1,800.

You'll need an SZ5-spec model to opt for the CV auto gearbox too. Even the base SZ3 gets 16-inch alloys, air-conditioning, cruise control, front and rear electric windows, heated door mirrors and a USB socket.

There's also a model designed to target the fleet market, the SZT trim featuring 17-inch wheels, silver roof rails, skid plates, satellite navigation, dual-zone air con, DAB radio, plus a keyless entry and start system.

The range-topping SZ5 gets high-intensity-discharge headlights, leather upholstery and a huge twin-panel sunroof.

Most customers will choose the DDIS diesel engine and rightly so. It's better to drive and



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The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. \*Model shown: SX4 S-Cross 1.6 SZ5 available at £20,249 on the road. SX4 S-Cross range - SX4 S-Cross 1.6 SZ3 Manual available at £13,999 to SX4 S-Cross 1.6 DDIS SZ5 ALLGRIP Manual available at £23,549. The features referred to in this advertisement and all specifications and equipment may vary depending on engine, transmission and model grade. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. On the road price valid from 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015. Model shown - SX4 S-Cross 1.6 SZ5 Manual (metallic paint available at £430). For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Offer not available on SZ3 Petrol and SZ3 Diesel models. ALLGRIP 4-wheel Drive is an optional extra on SZ-T & SZ5 ALLGRIP models only. \*\*Offer applies to private customers and the first registered vehicle only; 3 routine manufacturer services covering 3 years or 37,500 miles (whichever comes sooner) by Suzuki franchised dealers or service partners only. Terms & Conditions apply, see [Suzuki.co.uk/cars/freeservicing](http://Suzuki.co.uk/cars/freeservicing) for details. Offer available on registrations of Suzuki SX4 S-Cross between 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015, subject to availability, at Suzuki franchised dealers based in the UK, Channel Islands, Shetland and Isle of Man only. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. Offer not available with SZ3 Petrol and SZ3 Diesel models.





# Super cool Leon Cupra – grace with lots of pace

By Matt Kimberley

**I'm going to start at the end. Having this car parked outside my flat for the last six months has been a privilege.**

It reminds me every time I drive it that there are fast, fun cars out there that you don't need to thrash around like you're a hormone-charged teenager. It's a car in which you can chill out just as much as go sports car-baiting – but boy, is it good at the latter.

First let me sum up the performance. When you let it loose, the Cupra 280 runs riot like a furiously territorial bull. It rampages through the DSG gearbox with the front tyres on the limit, slamming each new ratio home with a satisfying whump in the back and a cheeky parp from the twin exhausts.

I reckon it could – and should – be a bit louder in Cupra mode; the angriest of the four driving mode selector options. When Comfort and Individual modes can take care of the quiet, relaxed, everyday thing, there's no reason to hold back with Cupra.

The VAQ triple-clutch differential assist on the front axle is worth its weight in unobtainium, managing the immense torque across the grippy front Bridgestones to devastating effect. Dry weather traction is unbelievable: violent, relentless and intoxicating. Your tyre fitter will thank you for the extra business if you enjoy it too often.

The DSG gearbox is a thorn in the car's side. It's a bit fragile, so torque has to be limited and fed in slowly when the turbo first spools up. It helps to make the automatic Cupra the gentler and more relaxed option compared to the manual, but the latter is more immediate, more explosive, more raw and, believe it or not, smoother – unless you're a complete dunce with the clutch.

## Additional

Then there's the lack of real manual control to boost the sense of driving involvement. If you don't shift up in time, it'll do it for you, so if you're just a fraction late with the shift paddle, you end up switching two gears instead of one. It could definitely be implemented better. At the additional price it commands, it's hard to recommend DSG.

But either way, having that swell of torque on tap is a joy even if you only ever use 20 percent of it on your commute. Just knowing it's there is enough to put a smile on your face.

Over my time with it, I did come across some annoying niggles. The CD player being in the glove box is one of them, and the desperately old-tech media screen is another – I'm sure the screen on my first mobile phone had better resolution.

OK, I exaggerate, but it really isn't good enough for a 2014 car costing almost £30,000 before options. Thankfully, the much-improved unit from the Leon X-Perience could see production in the Cupra in a year or two.

I've really grown to like the wheels. They give stance. I wasn't sure about them to begin with, thinking them on the large side for the size of car. At 19 inches, they make one heck of a statement and initially I'd have preferred the 18-inches available only for the Leon FR, but the more you look at this car, the more the wheels make sense.

It's not a massively overstated car in terms of its styling, but there's no question in my mind that the wheels add attitude.

Until you kerb them, anyway. Protect them if you can.

What I really love about the hottest Leon is that it's not perfect. My affection for it comes squarely from the heart rather than the head. There are flaws to accept and work around, just like with a husband or wife, but it's all part of the hot Seat's unique character. It helps that it's especially beautiful in the three-door SC body style with its sleekly sloping roof line and rear three-quarter curves to die for.

The Leon Cupra 280 is uber-desirable; it's a car you buy because it pulls your heartstrings more than any of its rivals. But rest assured it has the bite to back up its bark.



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Fuel economy: 42.8mpg (official)

CO2 rating: 155g/km





## Aldridge Century batters Brummies

**Aldridge 100**  
**B'ham Barbarians 0**

ALDRIDGE commenced the second phase of their league programme with this impressive victory over near neighbours Birmingham Barbarians.

Just 30 seconds after the off, a fine individual effort by scrum-half Adam Reed put him over between the posts and the simple conversion by full-back Alex Yates put Aldridge firmly in the driving seat.

Some determined play from the visitor's pack helped keep the lid on things for about 15 minutes but a period of Aldridge forward pressure resulted in a penalty try that effectively concluded the contest.

Aldridge put the visitor's under the cosh for the rest of the game. Aldridge went on to amass 16 tries and 10 conversions with Alex Yates topping the individual score board with three tries and nine conversions (33 points).

Winger Nick Yates and flanker Ben Drinkwater also grabbed three a-piece and Adam Reed added a second to his tally. Winger Greg Raybould, centre Ben Pittam, hooker Lea Ross and No.10 Dan McKenna also crossed, McKenna converting the last score.

## Baldwin's goal of life seals deal

**Bloxwich Men's First XI 3**  
**Leamington 2**

LEAMINGTON took an early lead from a commanding short corner.

This seemed to give Bloxwich a bit of added steam and they pressed hard with Jake Perkins showing some excellent running down the left to set up Adam Baldwin to make the scores equal at half time. Bloxwich and Leamington both came flying out of the starting blocks in the second half and Leamington added another short corner goal to take the lead again.

This did not last too long with Gary Williams making some exquisite passes and tackles which lead to Matt Baldwin smashing home an equaliser.

Both teams continued to push for the win, with Bloxwich creating more chances which led to Adam Baldwin taking a ball in the air and finishing a with a phenomenal goal which he says was 'the goal of his life'.

## Penalties put Pics through

**Stafford Rangers 2**  
**Rushall 2 (5-6 pens)**

RUSHALL OLYMPIC came out 6-5 winners on penalties after a 2-2 draw.

For a large part of the Doodson Cup game it looked as though Stan Mugisha had come back to haunt Stafford before Alex Curtis scored twice to level after Jake Heath had put Rushall 2-1 in front.

The ball was smashed home by former Rangers loanees Mugisha from six yards after 34 minutes.

Curtis then flicked in to an empty net with 20 minutes to play.

The game went to penalties.

# Saddlers press on towards Wembley

**Preston 0 Walsall 2**

LATE goals from Anthony Forde and Tom Bradshaw have put Walsall within touching distance of a first ever trip to Wembley.

On a night when the rain never ceased, the Saddlers again delivered a superb away performance with history on the line at Deepdale.

To win big games you need big players to stand up and goalkeeper Richard O'Donnell certainly did that, not just with two outstanding first-half saves to deny Jermaine Beekford but with his sure handling which, on a sodden evening, provided a level of calm to proceedings which were often anything but.

A goalless draw would have been an excellent result in itself, but Forde ensured even better six minutes from time when he swept home a brilliant 25-yard free-kick.

**Football**

Bradshaw then gave the Saddlers a real cushion heading into the second leg when he capitalised on a defensive error to score his 15th goal of the season.

Boss Dean Smith had been scathing of his side's slow start at the weekend but here, roared on by a very vocal travelling support, they were straight into their stride.

Forde was looking particularly bright and after a jinking run almost found Bradshaw with a low cross which was hacked clear by alert home skipper Tom Clarke.

After weathering the visitors' early pressure, it was the hosts who would have taken the lead but for a wonder save from O'Donnell.

Beekford looked set to bury Paul Gallagher's cross from the left wing when he met it unmarked four yards out, but the Saddlers keeper somehow managed to divert his header round the post.

That was the cue for a 25-minute spell of often intense pressure from the hosts, in which only further brilliance from O'Donnell prevented them from taking the lead.

Chris Humphrey shot over from outside the box, while Beekford did likewise from far closer range.

Walsall's defence mostly stood strong, though James Chambers was almost caught out as he was robbed by Humphrey trying to shepherd the ball out of play. The winger advanced into the box but James O'Connor was there to hack clear the inviting low cross.

Just as they did in the first, it was the Saddlers who were quickest out of the blocks in

the second period and after O'Connor had flashed a centre across the face of goal, Cain drove just over from distance.

Beekford, with Gallagher as his supplier, remained Preston's greatest threat and the striker diverted another cross from the winger straight at O'Donnell before Cook fired a free-kick at Stuckmann from just outside the box after Bradshaw had wriggled away from Paul Huntington only to be pulled back.

Forde's goal owed much to Stuckmann scuffing his clearance to Sawyers. Kilkenny had little option but to bring him down and Forde gave the keeper no chance from 25 yards.

That sent the visiting supporters into a delirium which only increased when Bradshaw latched on to a poor back-pass and slid the ball under Stuckmann.

# Last minute goal sees Wood go into top six

**Coventry 1 Walsall Wood 2**

WITH results going their way Wood entered the top six for the first time this season.

Wood threatened first on five minutes with Ben Evans racing away wide right, his low cross flashed across the face of the six-yard box but was pushed behind by Rickie Fletcher to deny the late arriving Joey Butlin.

On 10 minutes Ashley Cain made space wide right before pulling the ball back to Luke Downes who was tackled instantly by Andre Gonzales to clear the danger.

Three minutes later it was Cain again, this time getting into the right of the box before crossing to the far post to find Jamie Newton who fired home from close range.

On 17 minutes Jamie Sauntson broke up a Sphinx attack and played a lovely cross field ball to find Corey Curritthers wide left, he raced into the area his low drive easily saved.

Right on half time Deakin crossed from wide right, the ball only cleared as far as Andre Gonzales who from 20 yards fired just over the right angle.

Wood came out to play and within two minutes of the restart they were on level terms.

From a right wing corner the ball was half cleared, Evans was released into the centre of the box and was brought down, Butlin despatching the resulting penalty.

Wood won the ball back from the restart, Harry Harris releasing Butlin wide left to run on, cut back inside and fire in a low drive that was held by O'Neill. four minutes later a lovely move through the centre saw Evans put Black racing into the box, he swept the ball

**Football**

out left to Curritthers and Black was then inches away from the far post cross.

It was Wood again on 65 minutes breaking up a Sphinx attack, Deakin feeding Evans wide right, his ball across the box hit first time by Butlin to bring another full length save from O'Neill.

The Wood defence got caught out on 67 minutes, Downie timing his run perfectly to collect a ball over the top of a flat footed defence, Faultless racing from his area and saving the low drive with his feet.

On 75 minutes Butlin powered in from the left, he was stopped on the edge of the box but managed to play the ball out to Harris to fire a first time effort just too high.

Two minutes later Downes powered in from the right along the bye line, fired in a low cross that Downie screwed wide from close range.

A minute later O'Neill easily saved a Butlin lob.

It looked like a creditable draw until on 90 minutes Faultless launched a kick downfield, O'Neill raced from his area to make a complete mess of an attempted clearance, Hayles nipping in to race clear and score into an empty net.

## Captain Halbert leads team by example



**Walsall's Richard Clarke makes a powerful run during the match against Kenilworth**

**Walsall 21 Kenilworth 10**

THIS was a game that saw Walsall's captain Steve Halbert lead by example.

He made numerous tackles, several defence splitting runs and was always supporting his players. The first score came after Halbert, Josh Hickman and Simon Weaver supported each other well as they took play towards the Kenilworth line.

The visitors were forced to concede a penalty which Roger Weston converted.

Near the half hour Hickman kicked one of the penalties to make it 3-3 at the interval.

Weston added a 30 metre penalty before Richard Fearnhead crossed for the first try of the game. The visitors then scored a 65 metre try on a counter attack. Replacement Nicholl barging through tackles for the eventual touchdown. Hickman put over a difficult conversion.

The hosts hit back immediately with a Weston penalty after debutant Richard Clarke made good ground

deep into opposition territory. Late in the game the hosts sealed, a deserved victory, as No.8 Simpson controlled the ball well as the Walsall scrum trundled towards the try line with Weston adding the conversion.

Walsall United lost 29-10 to Birmingham/Solihull. Wolverhampton Colts 41 Walsall Colts 12.

Walsall U-15s 69 Wolverhampton U-15s 17

The Walsall team put together an impressive performance.

W-ton U-14s 46 Walsall U-14s 14.

# Bloxwich grab victory in see-saw game

**Bloxwich RFC 1st XV 20 Willenhall 16**

WILLENHALL are a couple of places higher in the league than Bloxwich and had the security of narrow victory in this fixture at the start of the season, but this counted for nothing in a very competitive local derby.

Bloxwich started the stronger with a good mix of passing and driving play provided the home side an attacking line out 10 metres short of the Willenhall line.

A clean take at the front by Tez Greenwood and military like teamwork in the forwards presented scrum half Martin Maclean with the first score.

Sean Bottomer went close with the conversion.

Straight from the kick off Bloxwich were caught on the hop. Quick hands and missed tackles meant the visitors went straight in

for a score of their own to level things up. This seemed to give confidence to the visitors who went on to pressurise the Bloxwich line, which they eventually crossed to take the lead.

Bloxwich were quick to establish some phases of attacking play with Jack Hunt and skipper Richard Geary.

Liam Chew capitalised on this good work when he burst through three defenders from close in to make the score level again.

Willenhall were trying to use the windy conditions to their advantage by kicking for field position, only for this to back fire when Bloxwich full back Dean Bottomer gathered securely and returned it back over the Willenhall defenders to set up another attack for the home team.

Bloxwich could have scored again, only

for penalties to cost them possession and field position. The Willenhall half backs worked well to move the visitors into striking distance again.

With Bloxwich conceding a penalty for offside at the ruck, and with the last play of the half Willenhall converted the penalty to give them 10-13 lead.

At the start of the second half the Willenhall scrum started to cause the home side one or two problems, which led to a penalty opportunity for the visitors.

This was duly converted to put them into a 10-16 lead. Still sensing that the outcome of this game was in their own hands Bloxwich started to click.

Some good work down the blind side from Chris Thomas on the wing supported by the back row, gave Bloxwich an attacking line

out. Yet again a clean take led to the Bloxwich pack pressuring the Willenhall line who were reduced to 14 when their number eight was sin-binned for continual offside at the ruck. Bloxwich opted for the scrum with number eight R Geary picking up and driving over to make the score 15-16.

With about 10 minutes left Bloxwich moved the ball wide only to be stopped short of the Willenhall line by some good tackling, but quick thinking and the use of a decoy runner lead to M Mclean darting in for the winning score.

Bloxwich have now won their last three league fixtures.

The turn-around is credit to new coaching duo of Ian Forrester and Rob Hunt.

This Saturday Bloxwich welcome Burntwood.

## Single scores favours Khalsa

**Staffs FA Vase**  
**Eccleshall 0**

**Sporting Khalsa 1 (AET)**

The first real chance fell to Khalsa when Craig Bannister was played through, leaving a static Eccleshall defence behind, and has he moved into the box keeper Brandon McEleny closed him to make a brave save at his feet.

The visitors having much of the play now with Eccleshall threatening on the break.

On such a break Allwyne Thompson, on the left of goal, threatened but as he approached on the left side of goal he got the ball tangled up in his feet and it was cleared for a corner.

Fast moving football opened the second half and DanKing made ground down the right but his low cross was easily collected by Pemberton. Extra time started and tired legs were working hard, McEleny was called on with a great diving, left handed save from Allando Davis.

Khalsa moved forward and took the lead on 98 minutes when Mensah Kinch collected a ball and sent in a cross from the right which was headed home by Bradley Lawley. Into the second period of extra time Khalsa were content to hold on.

## Prince side burns Bush in league

**Lichfield & Walsall District Football League Premier**

AFC Bush 0 Prince of Wales 4; Longhorn FC 2 Swinfen Hall 2

**League One**

Alma FC 6 Pelsall Villa Colts 3; Saddlers Arms 0 Cannock Wood 3; Swan FC 0 Erdington Star 4; Walsall Phoenix 4 Longdon Chet 0

**League Two**

ASP Victoria 6 Hussey Arms 2; GS Rockets 2 Burntwood Star 1; Q-Bar 6 Duke of Wellington 1; Trent Valley Rovers 1 Dog FC 5

**League Three**

AFC Collingwood 1 Burntwood Town Res 2; Ros Park FC 2 Wych Elm FC 6; W'hall 3 Crowns 0 Queens Head 6

**Jack Donnelly Cup - Round Two**

Bowman FC 3 Green Rock Tay. 6; Oak Park Rangers 5 Eximius Warriors 1

**Lichfield Challenge Cup - Round Two**

Boney Hay 5 Scales FC 4; New Inns 3 Dr Johnson 0.

## Lockmen let the lead slip

**Cradley 2 Willenhall 2**

THE Lockmen threw away two points after conceding two late goals to 10-man Cradley.

The Lockmen had their deserved lead on 26 minutes when Harry Rickus was played through and he dummed Jones before rolling the ball into the empty net.

Willenhall stretched their lead when Mikey Clark finished comfortably.

Cradley pulled a goal back when a short headed back-pass was pounced on by sub James Welnitschuk and he fired home.

On 89 minutes Cradley broke quickly and Welnitschuk fired home the leveller.



# SPORT

**Top half team**  
Win moves Wood into the first six  
**Page 43**

**Halbert leads**  
Captain takes his team to victory  
**Page 43**



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## Ilkeston exploit opening clanger

**Rushall 1 Ilkeston 3**  
HIGH-FLYING Ilkeston came away with all three points thanks to a 3-1 win at Rushall Olympic.

Ilkeston had the advantage at half-time in the Evo-Stik Premier clash, going in 1-0 up courtesy of a Michael Williams goal following a mistake from Cameron Belford.

The visitors had hit the post early on through Luke Shaw, side-footing in from Kai Simons' cut-back with top scorer Rob Duffy seeing his later effort blocked by Gavin Caines.

The Pies also rattled the woodwork in the first half, Josh Hawker crashing a shot off the bar.

The visitors went in ahead as Belford miscued his clearance and it fell straight to Williams, who advanced before tucking into an empty net.

Joe Maguire headed the visitors into a two-goal lead after 72 minutes from James Reid's corner.

Rushall halved the deficit just a minute later as veteran striker Dele Adebola entered the fray and teed up Aaron Williams to fire in.

Despite late pressure from the home side, another defensive error, this time from Caines, allowed in Ilkeston substitute, Evan Garnett, to lift his effort over Belford and in off the bar.

## Taylor rails at defence

WALSALL'S 'Mr Reliable' Andy Taylor has delivered a scathing assessment of the Saddlers' declining defence, blasting: 'It's not good enough.'

Taylor has been an almost ever-present part of a staunch Walsall back-line that has kept 10 league clean sheets this season.

But their status as League One's top defence has been dashed by shipping four goals to both Swindon and Scunthorpe recently. And Taylor admitted: 'It's something that we're going to have to address because it's very disappointing.'

'All season we've looked incredibly solid and the last few weeks or so we've been a lot looser. Not just conceding goals but conceding chances.'

'Recently we've been conceding more goals. It is something that we are going to have to work on.'

## Problems not just down to defence, says Smith

WALSALL boss Dean Smith has leapt to the defence of his out-of-form back-line – and challenged his attackers to help the rearguard out by producing the goods themselves.

After Saturday's 4-1 defeat to Scunthorpe, the Saddlers have shipped 10 goals in their last three home league games and were lucky to keep a clean sheet in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Preston.

The goals flying in have led some to question the longevity of a defence that was statistically the best in League One up until recently – but Smith has backed his back-

### Football

line. Smith said: 'It was only about three weeks ago that everybody was waxing lyrical about our defence.'

'The Swindon game on Boxing Day we had a 10-minute spell where they were very clinical and we were very poor in conditions that you would never play in again.'

'On Saturday, there were defensive lapses for the second and fourth Scunthorpe goals, that's for sure. But I never felt we were jittery.'

'But what we've got to do better with is when our chances come along. We have to take them.'

'We've created enough again to score goals. We've got to be more clinical.'

'As we saw when Swindon came here, they were very clinical against us and that's why they are where they are in the league.'

'Because if we had scored any of our chances in the first 25 minutes against Scunthorpe, we would have gone on and won the game comfortably. We can't talk about ifs, buts and maybes. We've got to make sure we take our chances and put

the game to bed.' The Saddlers boss was fuming about ref Lee Collins' penalty decision against Paul Downing for Scunthorpe's vital third goal – with the game poised at 2-1 – but admitted Walsall were poor defensively.

He added: 'It's disappointing and it's something that we've got to stamp out because we obviously want to turn our home form around. We can't do anything about their third goal – that was a poor decision from the official.'

'What we can do is react better because the fourth goal is certainly poor.'

## Walsall's fair play reward

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION chairman Greg Dyke congratulated Walsall after the team won a fair play award.

Dyke presented club chief executive Stefan Gamble with a £10,000 cheque after the Saddlers won the League One FA Respect & Fair Play Award for last season.

He made the presentation ahead of the club's home defeat at the Banks's Stadium against Scunthorpe on Saturday.

The money will be spent on a conditioning facility and to fund a fitness coach at the club's successful academy.

Dyke said: 'This is a good club with a good record, it's well-run and the results of that can be seen on the pitch.'

'I was chairman at Brentford and enjoyed my time when I came here.'

The club won the award after it picked up just 36 yellow cards and five red cards in league last season.

The club also committed the fewest fouls in the division, 368.

Dyke said: 'The award works well, it gives the club a bit of money and promotes fairness in the club.'

## Villa aim to net Spaniard Carles

ASTON Villa look poised to confirm the signing of Carles Gil from Valencia.

Valencia valued attacking midfielder Gil around £6million but Villa are understood to have negotiated over the fee as they did not want to pay over £4million.

The 22-year-old is expected to sign a five-year deal.

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# SADDLERS FALL TO SCUN-FOUR-PE

Walsall 1 Scunthorpe 4

WALSALL got a reminder of how fragile their 2-0 Johnstone's Paint Trophy advantage could be.

Not just from the scoreline – a defeat to one of the lesser, albeit in-form, lights of League One that, if replicated on January 27, will shatter those Wembley dreams.

And not solely from a dire defensive display – handing Scunthorpe at least two, arguably three, of their goals – that will have JPT opponents Preston salivating.

But it was also a stark reminder that, in football, some things are just out of your hands – like the Iron's game-changing third goal.

The only positive thing about referee Lee Collins pointing to the spot when Neal Bishop theatrically tumbled was that it was a howler better made now than in the Preston second leg.

### Panicky

Which is why Walsall have to exert more control over the things they can control – like cutting out these 10-minute spells of panicky defending. Of course, we are talking more about a game two weeks away than the one that's just happened – or the one in between – but that's because everybody is talking about it.

Walsall's main concern right now is over a back-line that was the best in the league a month ago but has now shipped 10 goals in the last three home games.

They dominated the first 20-odd minutes but were restricted to efforts from

### Football

distance. Simply put, two balls into the six-yard box were how Scunthorpe established a two-goal half-time lead against the run of play. After O'Connor gifted United possession down the left, Gary McSheffrey's low cross was turned into his own net by James Chambers on 24 minutes.

It was 2-0 15 minutes later as Tom Hopper tucked home Jacob Murphy's centre from close range.

The bright Romaine Sawyers flashed inches wide from 25 yards on the stroke of the interval before Walsall's shoot-on-sight policy finally reaped rewards on 51 minutes, Michael Cain steering into the bottom corner from 20 yards after neat work from Bradshaw.

And after a let-off when Collins pointed to the spot for a Downing tug on Llera only for an offside flag to cancel it out. The next time Collins pointed to the spot his decision stood and after Paddy Madden spanked home the penalty, Walsall capitulated to concede a fourth, Hopper beating Chambers to a knockdown and Bishop slid home.



Anthony Forde involved in a midfield tussle at Banks's Stadium during the clash with Scunthorpe

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